Readings at Home for The Holydays of The Church.

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READINGS AT HOME

FOR THE

Holydays of The Church

BY

MRS. MARY E. TOWNSEND.

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TO THE

MEMORY

OF

MY MOTHER.

PREFACE.

THIS book is a selection principally from the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer of such Texts, Prayers, Psalms and Hymns, as seemed most applicable to the respective Holydays of the Church, and is published only in the hope that it may suggest appropriate meditations for those who from ill-health or other causes are prevented from attending the Services of the Church.

April 1867.

M. E. T.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Saint Andrew's Day	1
Saint Thomas' Day	5
Christmas Day	10
Saint Stephen's Day	13
Saint John the Evangelist's Day	17
The Holy Innocents' Day	22
The Circumcision of Christ	27
Epiphany	32
Conversion of Saint Paul	37
The Purification of the Virgin Mary	43
Saint Matthias' Day	48
The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary	53
Ash-Wednesday	58
Monday before Easter	63
Tuesday before Easter	68
Wednesday before Easter	73
Thursday before Easter	77
Good Friday	82
Easter-Even	88
Monday in Easter-Week	92
Tuesday in Easter-Week	97
Saint Mark's Day	101
Saint Philip and Saint James' Day	104
Ascension-Day	108
Monday in Whitsun-Week	113
Tuesday in Whitsun-Week	117
Saint Barnabas' Day	123

Page
Saint John the Baptist's Day 128
Saint Peter's Day 133
Saint James the Apostle's Day 138
Saint Bartholomew's Day 143
Saint Matthew's Day 147
Saint Michael and All Angels' Day 152
Saint Luke's Day 160
Saint Simon and Saint Jude's Day 166
All Saints' Day 170

SAINT ANDREW'S DAY.

NOVEMBER 30.

ANDREW, one of the twelve Apostles was a brother of Simon Peter and like him a fisherman. He had evidently been first a disciple of John the Baptist. The Evangelist Saint John says in his gospel in speaking of the Baptist: "Again the next day after John stood and two of his disciples; and looking upon Jesus as he walked he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus". Then they saw where he dwelt and abode with him that day. "One of the two which heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother".

Saint Andrew preached in various countries, but when in Achaia his zeal cost him his life. For the unbelieving Governor ordered him to be scourged and then crucified. It is recorded that in order to make his death more lingering he was fastened to the cross with cords instead of nails.

The cross was constructed in the shape of the letter X and is known by the name of Saint Andrew's

Cross. Even while dying he taught the people, enduring his martyrdom "with the greatest cheerfulness and triumph."

TEXTS.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be alway acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. Ps xix, 14—15.

Rend your heart and not your garments.

Joel ii, 3.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

(See Epistle for the day.)

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord pondereth the hearts.

Prov. xxi, 2.

PRAYER.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit; that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

— From the Psalter, Psalm cxiv, 15, 16, 17. —

The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou

openest thy hand, and fillest all things living with plenteousness. The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

— Selection of Psalms xiv, Part 1, Verse 1. —

No change of time shall ever shock
My firm affection Lord to thee,
For thou hast always been my rock
A fortress and defence to me.

— Hymn 98, Verse 1. —

"Go preach my gospel" saith the Lord,
"Bid the whole earth my grace receive:
Explain to them my sacred word,
Bid them believe, obey, and live."

COLLECT.

Almighty God, who didst give such grace unto thy holy Apostle Saint Andrew, that he readily obeyed the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed him without delay; grant unto us all, that we being called by thy holy Word, may forthwith give up ourselves obediently to fulfil thy holy commandments; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

"In doing is the knowledge won
Of seeing what remains undone;
Let this our pride repress,
And give us grace, a growing store,
That day by day we may do more
And may esteem it less."

SAINT THOMAS'S DAY.

DECEMBER 21.

THOMAS called Didymus was, like Andrew and Peter, a fisherman. He had much zeal and courage and would die for his Lord, or with him if need be. And yet after our Saviour's resurection he would not at first believe in that great event. But Jesus shewed him the prints of the nails in his hands and his feet, saying "Be not faithless but believing".—He preached in India as well as in other places, and was put to death by the Indian soldiery who were instigated to this cruelty by the Brahmins.

TEXTS.

Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Hebrews xii, 1, 2.

Whom having not seen ye love; in whom though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

1. Peter i, 8, 9.

And he did not many mighty works there, because of their unbelief. St. Matt. xiii, 58.

Daughter be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole. St. Matt. ix, 22.

PRAYER.

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope and charity; and that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command, though Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

— From Psalter, Psalm xxv, 3, 4. —

Shew me thy ways O Lord, and teach me thy paths. Lead me forth in thy truth, and learn me; for thou art the God of my salvation; in thee hath been my hope all the day long.

— Selection of Psalms iiL, 1, 3. —

My soul for help on God rely,
On him alone thy trust repose;
My rock and health will strength supply
To bear the shock of all my foes.

In him ye people always trust,
Before his throne pour out your hearts,
For God, the merciful and just,
His timely aid to us imparts.

— Hymn 142, Verses 2, 3. —

Vain are our fancies, vain our flights
  If faith be cold and dead;
None but a living power unites
  To Christ the living Head.
The faith which new-creates the heart,
  And works by active love,
Will bid all sinful joys depart
  And lift the thoughts above.

COLLECT.

Almighty and ever-living God, who for the greater confirmation of the faith didst suffer thy holy Apostle Thomas to be doubtful in thy Son's resurrection; grant us so perfectly and without all doubt to believe in thy Son Jesus Christ, that our faith in thy sight may never be reproved. Hear us O Lord through the same Jesus Christ; to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all honor and glory, now and for evermore. AMEN.

"WHOM NOT HAVING SEEN WE LOVE."

"It is easy to love when eye meets eye,
  And the glance reveals the heart,
When the flush on the cheek can the soul bespeak,
  And the lips in gladness part;
There's a thrilling of bliss, in the loving kiss,
  And a spell in a kindly tone,
And the spirit hath chains of tenderness,
  To fetter and bind its own."

"But a holier spell and a deeper joy
  From a purer fountain flow,
When the soul sends higher its incense fire
  And rests no more below;
When the heart goes up to the gate of Heaven
  And bows before the Throne,
And striking its harp for sins forgiven
  Calls the Saviour all its own."

"Though we gaze not now on the lovely brow
  That felt for us the thorn;
Though afar from home we pilgrims roam,
  And our feet with toil are worn;
Though we never have pressed that piercèd hand,
  It is stretched our lives above;
And we own His care in grateful prayer
  Whom not having seen we love".

"We have felt Him near for many a year,
When, at eve, we bent the knee;
That mercy-breath, that glorious faith,
Dear Saviour came from Thee!
When we stood beside the dying bed
And watched the loved one go,
In the darkening hour, we felt His power
And it hushed the waves of woe".

"And still as we climb the hills of time,
And the lamp of life grows dim,
We are hastening on from faith to sight,
We are pressing near to Him;
And away from idols of earthly mould,
Enraptured we gaze above,
And long to be where His arms enfold,
Whom not having seen we love".

CHRISTMAS DAY.

DECEMBER 25.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

TEXTS.

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. St. Luke ii, 19

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the Government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Isaiah ix, 6.

PRAYER.

Almighty God give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son, Jesus Christ came to visit us in

great humility; that in the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. AMEN.

— From the Psalter, Psalm iii, 7. —

Salvation belongeth unto the Lord: and thy blessing is upon thy people.

— Selection of Psalms xxi, 7. —

Erect your heads eternal gates,
Unfold to entertain
The King of Glory: see! he comes
With his celestial train.

— Hymn 44, Verse 4. —

Mercy and truth, with sweet accord,
His rising beams adorn;
Let Heaven and Earth in concert sing,
"The promised Child is born".

COLLECT.

Almighty God who hast given us thy only-begotten Son, to take our nature upon Him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin; grant that

we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. AMEN.

CHRISTMAS.

The Shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?
My God no hymn for thee?
My soul's a shepherd too; a flock it feeds
Of thoughts, and words, and deeds:
The pasture is Thy Word; the streams, Thy grace
Enriching all the place,
Shepherd and flock shall sing and all my powers
Outsing the daylight hours.

GEORGE HERBERT.

SAINT STEPHEN'S DAY.

DECEMBER 26.

SAINT STEPHEN was the first Christian Martyr. He was appointed by the Apostles to be one of seven Deacons. He performed miracles and eloquently instructed the Jews. But they disputed with him, and becoming terribly enraged, they cast him out of the city of Jerusalem and stoned him to death, while he prayed to God to forgive them. "And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him". A. D. 34.

TEXTS.

And he kneeled down and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts vii, 60.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. St. Matth. v, 10.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. i, 10.

— From the Psalter, Psalm cxix. (Lucerna pedibus meis)
Verses 5, 6, 8.

My soul is alway in my hand; yet do I not forget thy law. The ungodly have laid a snare for me; but yet I swerve not from thy commandments. I have applied my heart to fulfil thy statutes alway, even unto the end.

PRAYER.

We beseech thee Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty to be our defence against all our enemies, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

— Selection of Psalms viii, Verse 4. —

All those who have His goodness proved
Will in his truth confide;
Whose mercy ne'er forsook the man
That on His help relied.

— Hymn 112, Verses 1, 2. —

Lo! what a cloud of witnesses
Encompass us around;
Men once like us with suffering tried,
But now with glory crowned.

Let us with zeal like theirs inspired
Strive in the Christian race,
And freed from every weight of sin,
Their holy footsteps trace.

COLLECT.

Grant O! Lord that in all our sufferings here upon earth, for the testimony of the truth we may steadfastly look up to heaven, and by faith behold the glory that shall be revealed; and being filled with the Holy Ghost may learn to love and bless our persecutors, by the example of the first Martyr, Saint Stephen, who prayed for his murderers, to Thee, O blessed Jesus, who standest at the right hand of God to succour all those who suffer for Thee, our only Mediator and Advocate. AMEN.

BE READY FOR THE DAYS ARE EVIL.

Let me suffer wrong without complaining,
While myself from doing wrong abstaining,
  Through Thy grace and strength, O Lord, I pray!
Let me never smite the hand that smites me,
But do good to him who ill requites me;
  Thus prepare me for the evil day.

My true Peace and Saviour, be Thou near me,
That in suffering I may not grow weary;
  Be Thou near me to direct my way;
Streugthen Thou my soul when foes assail her,
That Thy patient Spirit may not fail her,—
  Thus prepare me for the evil day;

That herself in patience still possessing,
She may find e'en woes to be a blessing,
  Nor account them strange when they arise;
Point her to the happy realms above her,
Where departed Saints, who dearly love her,
  Wait to greet her in the opening skies.

—Spitta.—
(From Massie's translation.)

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST'S DAY.

DECEMBER 27

SAINT JOHN the "beloved disciple" was the son of Zebedee and the brother of Saint James. He appears to have been especially chosen with Saint James and Saint Peter by our Lord to be with Him on several important occasions. They alone were permitted to enter with Jesus into the house of the Ruler of the Synagogue, when our Saviour raised his daughter from the dead. The same three witnessed the marvellous Transfiguration; and in the sad hour of agony were with Jesus at Gethsemane.

Saint John and Saint Peter were selected by the Lord to bring the ass upon which he was to ride triumphantly into Jerusalem; and they two were also sent from Bethany to Jerusalem to "prepare the Passover". Saint John (as well as Saint Andrew) had been formerly a disciple of John the Baptist. He is supposed to have been about 30 years of age when called by our Saviour. He was the author of a Gospel, three Epistles and the Book of the Revelation. This last was written after the visions which he

beheld in the isle of Patmos. To that place he was banished by the Roman Emperor Domitian. It is said that the Apostle had been previously sent by order of the same Emperor to Rome, and cast into a cauldron of boiling oil, but from this he was taken out unhurt. He was recalled from banishment by the Emperor Nerva, and then lived at Ephesus until the commencement of the reign of Trajan, when he died at the age of 100 years. He was the only one of the twelve Apostles who died a natural death.

TEXTS.

And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who also were in the ship, mending their nets. And straightway he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him. St. Mark i, 19, 20.

When Jesus therefore saw his Mother and the disciple standing by whom he loved, he saith unto his Mother: "Woman, behold thy Son"! Then saith he to the disciple; "Behold thy Mother! and from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

St. John, xix, 26, 27.

I, John who also am your brother and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ was in the isle which is called Patmos, for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit, on the Lord's day, and heard behind me, a great voice, as of a trumpet,

saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. Revelation of St. John, i, 9, 10 and part of 11. verses.

PRAYER.

Blessed Lord who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise, hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm cxlv, 17, 18.—

The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him; yea, all such as call upon him faithfully.

—Selection of Psalms cv, Verses 1, 2.—

Lord, forever at thy side
  Let my place and portion be;
Strip me of the robe of pride,
  Clothe me with humility.

Meekly may my soul receive
  All thy Spirit had revealed;
Thou hast spoken—I believe,
  Though the oracle be sealed.

—Hymn 97, Verses 1, 4.—

Go forth ye heralds in my name,
  Sweetly the gospel trumpet sound;
The glorious Jubilee proclaim,
  Where 'er the human race is found.

Freely from me ye have received,
  Freely in love to others give;
Thus shall your doctrines be believed
  And, by your labours sinners live.

COLLECT.

Merciful Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church, that it being instructed by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist, Saint John, may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR ORDINATION.

Christ to the young man said: "Yet one thing more
If thou woulds't perfect be,
Sell all thou hast and give it to the poor
And come and follow me"!

And evermore beside him on his way
The unseen Christ shall move,
That he may lean upon His arm and say
"Dost Thou, dear Lord approve"?

Beside him at the marriage-feast shall be
To make the scene more fair;
Beside him in the dark Gethsemane
Of pain and midnight-prayer!

Oh holy trust! Oh endless sense of rest!
Like the beloved John
To lay his head upon his Saviour's breast
And thus to journey on!

LONGFELLOW.

THE HOLY INNOCENTS' DAY.

DECEMBER 28.

"The Holy Innocents" is the name applied to those unfortunate little children of Bethlehem "from two years old and under", who were cruelly slain by command of Herod, King of Judea. He had been told by the Wise Men that the King of the Jews (Jesus our Saviour), was to be born in Bethlehem. He feared that his own kingdom would be in danger, and thought that by causing all the little ones to be killed the Holy One whom he dreaded could by no means escape. But Joseph being warned of God took the young child and His Mother away to the land of Egypt, where they remained until after the death of the wicked Herod. It is recorded by Josephus, of this wretched man, that before his death "he was smitten with many plagues and tortures".

TEXTS.

Then Herod when he saw that he was mocked of the Wise Men, was exceeding wroth, and sent

forth and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the Wise Men.

St. Matth. ii, 16.

And they brought young children to him that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked them that brought them. But when Jesus saw it he was much displeased and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them and blessed them.

St. Mark x, 13, 14, 15.

Doth not Wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? Now, therefore hearken unto me ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Proverbs viii, 1, 32.

My little children, let us not love in word neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1 John iii, 18.

I will write unto you little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

1 John ii, 12.

PRAYER.

O Almighty and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness, keep us we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we being ready both

in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things which thou commandest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm xxxiv, 11, 13, 14.—

Come, ye children, and hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips that they speak no guile. Eschew evil, and do good; seek peace and ensue it.

—Selection of Psalms cv, Verse 3.—

Humble as a little child,
  Weaned from the mother's breast,
By no subtilties beguiled,
  On thy faithful word I rest.

—Hymn 127, Verse 1, 3.—

As the sweet flower that scents the morn,
  But withers in the rising day;
Thus lovely was this Infant's dawn,
  Thus swiftly fled its life away.

It died to sin, it died to cares,
  But for a moment felt the rod;
Oh! mourner, such the Lord declares,
  Such are the children of our God.

COLLECT.

O Almighty God, who out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast ordained strength and made infants to glorify thee by their deaths; Mortify and kill all vices in us, and so strengthen us by thy grace, that by the innocency of our lives and constancy of our faith, even unto death, we may glorify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

A MOTHER OF BETHLEHEM.

"A child now lives who Israel's King shall be,
So Herod jealous trembling, yet in wrath,
Has to his soldiers giv'n a stern decree,
And, fearing One, strikes all from out his path
From two years old and under." — What is this
Judea's cruel king would now have done?
My babe, my treasure and my only bliss
THOU shalt not die, — thy life is just begun: —
Ah, no! Why need I fear? — It cannot be!
No man could slay an innocent young child,
Ah, no, no, no! — Would any murder thee,
Poor little, tender creature undefiled? —
Besides, thou art no king and ne'er shalt be;
Though other babes must die, yet safe thou art;
No regal, purple robe awaiteth thee,
Thine only throne is in thy Mother's heart! —
We are so very humble —, I am sure
That if the soldiers come they 'll pass us by;
For once 't is very sweet to be so poor,
So poor that thou may'st live, — too poor to die!

They say, some sheperds watching flocks at night
  Heard angel-voices singing from afar;
That Eastern Magi saw a wondrous light
  And sought the Child-King, guided by a star:—
—Oh, have they found, or are they seeking on?—
  Some say the infant sleeps in lowly place;
Why, so dost THOU my babe, and lo! my son,
  Now shines a radiant star upon thy face:
And why might not for THEE sweet Angels sing?—
  (In sooth thou hast a very kingly air!)
And hark!—The people come to hail thee, King!
—My God, 'tis Herod's soldiers!—Spare, oh, spare!

M. E. TOWNSEND.

THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST.

JANUARY 1.

"This day is according to the Jewish mode of reckoning, the eighth day from Christmas day (for the Jews always reckoned in the day from which they counted, as we see when Christ is said to have risen again on the third day), and so it was on this day that, according to the law of Moses, our blessed Lord was circumcised and received the holy name "Jesus", or "Saviour", and it is this event which the Church keeps in memory to day. Thus the year begins with Christ".

TEXTS.

For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the

faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. Colossians ii, 9, 11, 12.

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. For if ye live after the flesh ye shall die: but if ye through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. Romans viii, 13.

But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Galatians vi, 14, 15.

For we are the circumcision which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh. Phil. iii, 3.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

Titus ii, 11, 12.

PRAYER.

Lord we beseech thee grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the Devil; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm li, 2, 10.—

Wash me throughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. Make me a clean heart. O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

—Selection of Psalms lvii, Verses 2, 3.—

Whom then in Heaven but thee alone,
  Have I, whose favour I require!
Throughout the spacious earth there 's none
  Compared with Thee that I desire.

My trembling flesh and aching heart
  May often fail to succour me;
But God shall inward strength impart
  And my eternal portion be.

—Hymn 60, Verses 1, 2.—

O Thou to whose all-searching sight
The darkness shineth as the light,
  Search, prove my heart; it looks to thee,
  Oh burst its bonds and set it free.

Wash out its stains; renew its dross,
Bind my affections to the cross;
  Hallow each thought till all within
  Be clean, as thou my Lord art clean.

COLLECT.

Almighty God, who madest thy blessed Son to be circumcised and obedient to the Law for man; grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit; that our hearts and all our members, being mortified from all worldly and carnal lusts, we may in all things obey thy blessed will; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

NOTHING BUT LEAVES.

"Nothing but leaves; the Spirit grieves
Over a wasted life,
Sin committed while conscience slept,
Promises made but never kept,
Hatred, battle and strife:
Nothing but leaves!

Nothing but leaves; no garnered sheaves
Of life's fair ripened grain;
Words, idle words for earnest deeds;
We sow our seeds, lo! tares and weeds;
We reap with toil and pain
Nothing but leaves!

Nothing but leaves; memory weaves
No veil to screen the past;
As we trace our weary way,
Counting each lost and misspent day,
We sadly find at last
Nothing but leaves.

And shall we meet the Master so,
Bearing our withered leaves?
The Saviour looks for perfect fruit, —
We stand before Him, humble, mute;
Waiting the word he breathes:—
Nothing but leaves".

EPIPHANY.

JANUARY 6.

"This day is the festival of the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. The Jews had been led to expect from the writings of the Prophets that their promised Messiah would appear about the time when our Saviour was born. And Gentiles also from the East, Wise Men, or Magi, as they were called, travelled to Jerusalem, to find and to worship this looked for King of the Jews, for they said they had seen in the East a wonderful star: "And the star, which they saw went before them till it came and stood over the place where the young Child was."

When they worshipped him they also presented unto him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. It is said in reference to the symbolic meaning of these gifts that they offered frankincense, because he was God; gold, because he was a King; and myrrh, because he was to die for mankind.

Myrrh was used among the Jews to embalm and prepare bodies for burial.

TEXTS.

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. Isaiah xxxv, 1.

Thus saith the Lord the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, because of the Lord that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

Isaiah xlix, 7.

And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all Kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name; which the mouth of the Lord shall name. Isaiah lxii, 2.

Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? yes, of the Gentiles also.

Romans iii, 29.

For the Scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Romans x, 11, 12.

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, as I live saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord.

Acts xiii, 47, 48.

Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons; But in every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is accepted with him. Acts x, 34, 35.

PRAYER.

O merciful God who hast made all men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made, nor desirest the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live; Have mercy upon all Jews, Turks, Infidels and Heretics; and take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word; and so bring them home, Blessed Lord, to thy flock, that they may be saved among the remnant of the true Israelites, and be made one fold, under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. Amen.

—From Psalter. Psalm cxlv, Verses 4, 7, 9.—

One generation shall praise thy works with another, and declare thy power. The memorial of thy abundant kindness shall be showed: and men shall

sing of thy righteousness. The Lord is loving unto every man; and his mercy is over all his works.

—Selection of Psalms xvii, Part 3, Verse 7.—

Then shall the glad converted world
To God their homage pay;
And scattered nations of the earth
One sovreign Lord obey.

—Hymn 42, Verse 2.—

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the saints thou art;
Long desired of every nation,
Joy of every waiting heart.

COLLECT.

Oh God, who by the leading of a star, did'st manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; Mercifully grant that we who know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

"Bright was the guiding star that led
With mild, benignant ray,
The Gentiles to the lowly shed,
Where the Redeemer lay.

"But lo! a brighter, clearer light
Now points to His abode;
It shines through sin and sorrow's night,
To guide us to our God.

"O gladly tread the narrow path
While light and grace are given!
Who meekly follow Christ on earth
Shall reign with Him in heaven."

CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL.

JANUARY 25.

SAINT PAUL was originally called Saul. He was a Jew, of the sect of the Pharisees. Zeal was a prominent trait of his character. While yet a young man (being then an unbeliever in Jesus), he manifested it by persecuting with great fury all who called themselves Christians. At the time of the stoning to death of Saint Stephen, Saul was a looker on, gladly participating no doubt in the cruel feelings which prompted the persecutors.

It is recorded that the "witnesses" laid down their clothes at the feet of Saul, while they took their part in the stoning of Stephen. In the Jewish law it was required in the case of punishment by stoning that "the two or three witnesses" of the offence should be the first to cast the stones, "and afterwards the hands of all the people" should join in accomplishing the punishment. (See Deuteronomy xxvii, verses 6, 7.) "And Saul was consenting unto his death"; after which he seems to have become more and more cruel, for "he made havoc

of the Church, entering into every house, and, haling men and women, committed them to prison." We find too that in the following year (A. D. 35) "Saul yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the High Priests and desired of them letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem". — But he was suddenly and wonderfully checked in his mad career and was converted; then having been baptized, and after tarrying "certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus", "he straightway preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God". — The Jews afterwards took counsel to kill him, for he had joined himself to their enemies, the Christians; but the disciples saved his life, by letting him down by the city-wall in a basket. He then went to Jerusalem, but so universally had his cruel zeal of former days become known, that at first the disciples in Jerusalem were afraid of him. "But Barnabas took him and brought him to the Apostles"; telling them of all that had come to pass. So then he remained a long time among them, "speaking boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus". Barnabas and Paul were associated many times in good works, during the following ten years, as will be seen by reading the Acts. When at Iconium some of the unbelieving Jews caused "Saul, who is also called Paul" to be stoned; but he was not killed, and the next day he continued his labours with Barnabas, preaching the gospel, "confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation

enter into the kingdom of God".—Saint Luke's account of Saint Paul's doings, as he relates them in the Acts of the Apostles, is most interesting; indicating very plainly that Saint Paul continued until the end of his days to be a zealous, untiring teacher of the doctrines of Christianity. Notwithstanding that he suffered wonderful hardships in many ways, "he preached the gospel in Jerusalem, Arabia, Asia, Greece, Illyricum, Rome and to the utmost bounds of the Western world". He suffered martyrdom by being beheaded, in the 68th year of his age, at the time of the great persecution of all Christians in the reign of the Emperor Nero.

TEXTS.

And he fell to the earth and heard a voice saying unto him: Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Acts ix, 4.

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

1 Timothy i, 12, 13.

And the night following, the Lord stood by him, and said: Be of good cheer Paul; for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome. Acts xxiii, 11.

Unto me who am less than the least of all saints is this grace given that I should preach among the Gentiles, the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Ephesians iii, 8.

PRAYER.

Grant we beseech thee Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds, do worthily deserve to be punished, may by the comfort of thy grace mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm xxv, 6, 7.—

Oh, remember not the sins and offences of my youth; but according to thy mercy, think thou upon me, O Lord, for thy goodness. Gracious and righteous is the Lord; therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

—Selection of Psalms xxvii, Verse 1.—

No sooner I my wounds disclosed,
  The guilt that tortured me within,
But thy forgiveness interposed
  And mercy's healing balm poured in.

—Hymn 185.—

Since I've known a Saviour's name
  And sin's strong fetters broke.
Careful, without care I am,
  Nor feel my easy yoke;

Joyful now my faith to show
  I find his service my reward:
All the work I do below
  Is light, for such a Lord.

COLLECT.

O God who through the preaching of thy blessed Apostle Saint Paul, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world; Grant we beseech thee, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show forth our thankfulness unto thee for the same, by following the holy doctrine which he taught, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

THE HEAVENLY SOWING.

Sower Divine,
Sow the good seed in me,
Seed for eternity;
'Tis a rough barren soil,
Yet by Thy care and toil,
Make it a fruitful field,
A hundredfold to yield;
Sower divine,
Plough up this heart of mine!

Sower divine!
Quit not this wretched field,
Till Thou hast made it yield;
Sow Thou by day and night,
In darkness and in light.
Stay not Thy hand, but sow,
Then shall the harvest grow;
Sower divine,
Sow deep this heart of mine!

Sower divine!
Let not this barren clay
Lead Thee to turn away;
Let not my fruitlessness
Provoke Thee not to bless;
Let not this field be dry
Refresh it from on high.
Sower divine
Water this heart of mine!

H. Bonar.

THE PURIFICATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

FEBRUARY 2.

AND when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord.

St. Luke ii, 22.

This was at the end of forty days; and was done in obedience to the established Jewish law. On this occasion the mother of Jesus offered the customary sacrifice in the Temple, which in her case was a pair of turtle-doves and two young pigeons. For she was poor and "unable to attain to the more costly offering which the Law prescribed to those who could afford it, — namely a lamb of the first year". (See Leviticus xii, 2, 4, 6.) — But how must the humble and poor mother's heart have been thrilled when (before she went with the babe and her husband back to "their own city Nazareth", and while yet in God's Holy Temple), the just and devout Simeon took the child up in his arms, blessed

God, and said, "Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation"! — Then came in Anna the prophetess, a venerable widow "which departed not from the Temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day". "She gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem". — Thus both a holy man and a holy woman were ready to rejoice in God's mercy, to proclaim the world's Saviour, to bless the Virgin Mother in the hour of her purification (though a sword should pierce through her own soul), — and to prophesy wonderful things of the child whom she had presented to the Lord! — We may readily believe, as it is recorded in the Gospel, that "Joseph and His mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of Him".

TEXTS.

Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God. St. Matt. v, 8.

And the Angel said unto her, Fear not Mary; for thou hast found favour with God. St. Luke i, 30.

And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. St. Luke i, 46, 47, 48.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brethren. Acts i, 14.

PRAYER.

Let thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm xxxiv, Verses 2, 4, 10, 11.—

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Blessed are they who dwell in thy house; they will be alway praising thee. For one day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

—Selection of Psalms 1, 1, 4.—

For thee, O God, our constant praise
In Zion waits thy chosen seat;
Our promised altars there we'll raise,
And all our zealous vows complete.

Bless'd is the man who near thee placed,
Within thy sacred dwelling lives;
'Tis there abundantly we taste
The vast delights thy temple gives.

—Hymn 24, Verses 3, 4.—

Behold the Ark of God,
Behold the open door;
Hasten to gain that dear abode
And rove my soul no more.

There safe thou shalt abide,
There sweet shall be thy rest,
And every longing satisfied
With full salvation blest.

COLLECT.

Almighty and everlasting God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty that as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Saviour pure and holy,
Lover of the lowly,
  Sign us with Thy sign,
  Take our hands in Thine,
  Take our hands and come,
  Lead thy children home!

Star of morn and even,
Shine on us from Heaven,
From Thy glory-throne
Hear thy very own!
Lord and Saviour come,
Lead us to our home!

FRANCIS T. PALGRAVE.

SAINT MATTHIAS' DAY.

FEBRUARY 24.

AFTER our Saviour Jesus Christ had ascended into Heaven, and the eleven Apostles were left alone on earth, to go and do all things as He had commanded them, they were one day assembled, with many other disciples, when Peter stood up in the midst and told the multitude that the Scripture must needs be fulfilled, and that one among them must be chosen to take part of the ministry and Apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell. "Then out of the number of men who had companied with the Apostles all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among them, from the time of the baptism by John, until the day that Jesus ascended into heaven, they ordained one to be a witness of his resurrection also with them". He was to take the place of the traitor, making thus again the number of the Apostles twelve. First, then, two were selected from the crowd of believers and prayer was made to God that He would show which of those two He had chosen. "And they gave forth their lots, and the lot fell upon

Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven Apostles".

He was probably one of the seventy disciples who, as it is recorded in Saint Luke's Gospel, (chap. x) were appointed by our Lord to go before him through every city teaching, and healing the sick.

"He preached first in Judea; and afterwards, according to Saint Jerome, went to the East, where after he had converted many to Christ, he obtained the crown of martyrdom".

TEXTS.

Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. St. Luke x, 2.

Thou therefore my Son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me, among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy ii, 1, 2.

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. 2 Timothy iv, 2.

PRAYER.

Almighty God who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to thy holy Apostles many excellent gifts, and didst charge them to feed thy flock, give grace we

beseech thee to all Bishops, the Pastors of thy Church, that they may diligently preach thy Word and duly administer the godly discipline thereof: and grant to the people that they may obediently follow the same: that all may receive the crown of everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

— From Psalter. Psalm ci, 4, 9. —

I will take no wicked thing in hand; I hate the sins of unfaithfulness; there shall no such cleave unto me. Whose leadeth a godly life, he shall be my servant.

— Selection of Psalms cviii, Verses 9, 10. —

Bless God, ye servants that attend
Upon his solemn state;
That in his Temple's hallowed courts
With humble reverence wait.

Within his house lift up your hands
And bless his holy Name;
From Zion bless thy Israel, Lord,
Who Earth and Heaven didst frame.

— Hymn 10, Verses 1, 5. —

Father of mercies, bow thine ear
Attentive to our earnest prayer,
We plead for those who plead for thee,
Successful pleaders may they be.

Let thronging multitudes around
Hear from their lips the joyful sound:
In humble strains thy grace implore
And feel thy new-creating power.

COLLECT.

O Almighty God, who into the place of the traitor Judas didst choose thy faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the twelve Apostles; Grant that thy Church, being always preserved from false Apostles, may be ordered and guided by faithful and true Pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

NOW.

"Arise! for the day is passing
While you lie dreaming on:
Your brothers are cased in armour
And forth to the fight are gone;
Your place in the ranks awaits you
Each man has a part to play;
The past and the future are nothing
In the face of the stern to-day".

"Arise from your dreams of the future
Of gaining a hard fought field;
Of storming the airy fortress;
Of bidding the giant yield.

Your future has deeds of glory,
Of honor (God grant it may!)
But your arm will never be stronger
Or needed as Now, to-day".

Arise! if the past detain you
Her sunshine and storms forget;
No claims so unworthy to hold you
As those of a vain regret:—
Sad or bright she is lifeless ever:
Cast her phantom arms away,
Nor look back save to learn the lesson,
Of a nobler strife to-day.

"Arise! for the hour is passing;
The sound that you dimly hear
Is your enemy marching to battle —
Rise! rise, for the foe is here!
Stay not to brighten your weapons
Or the hour will strike at last;
And from dreams of a coming battle
You will waken, and find it past."

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

MARCH 25.

"THE Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias the Priest the coming in the flesh of the Lord Jesus at the same time that he foretold the birth of John the forerunner of Christ. — Six months later the same Angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she should be the mother of "the Saviour of the world." This startling communication at first filled her pure and gentle spirit with fear; but she, in all meekness, replied to the Angel; "Behold the handmaid of the Lord".

Yes! she might well take courage, though impressed with wondering awe, for had not the Angel said "Blessed art thou among women"?

Let us remember that there is a blessing likewise for all whose characters resemble that of the Virgin Mother; for —

"Still to the lowly soul
He doth himself impart,
And for His cradle and His throne
Chooseth the pure in heart."

TEXTS.

And the Angel came in unto her and said, Hail thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women. St. Luke i, 28.

Many are in high place and of renown: but mysteries are revealed unto the meek. For the power of the Lord is great and he is honoured of the lowly. Ecclesiasticus iii.

And Mary said, behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. St. Luke i, 38.

And of the angels he said, who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flaming fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Hebrews i, 7, 8.

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God. Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God. 1 John iv, 2, 3.

PRAYER.

O God who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm lxxii, verses 18, 19.—

Blessed be the Lord God, even the God of Israel, which only doeth wondrous things; and blessed be the name of his majesty for ever: And all the Earth shall be filled with his majesty. AMEN, AMEN.

—Selection of Psalms cxiii, verse 3.—

Surrounded by thy power I stand.
On every side I find thy hand:
O skill for human reach too high!
Too dazzling bright for mortal eye!

—Hymn 134, verses 1, 2.—

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
  Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire,
  That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear;
The upward glancing of an eye,
When none but God is near.

COLLECT.

We beseech thee O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an Angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Blest among women is thy lot:
But higher meed we yield thee not,
Nor more than woman's name.

Nor solemn 'Hail' to thee we pay
Nor prayer to thee for mercy pray,
Nor hymn of glory raise;
Nor thine we deem in God's high throne,
Nor thine the birthright of thy Son
The Mediator's praise.

Mother of Jesus, Parent dear!
If aught of earthly thou couldst hear,
If aught of human see;
What pangs thy humble heart must wring
To know thy Saviour, Lord and King,
Dishonour'd thus for thee!—

BISHOP MANT.

ASH-WEDNESDAY.

FROM THE LITANY.

THAT it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy Holy Word;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

And lest through our own frailty, or the temptations which encompass us, we be drawn again into sin, vouchsafe us, we beseech thee, the direction and assistance of thy Holy Spirit. Reform whatever is amiss in the temper and disposition of our souls; that no unclean thoughts, unlawful designs, or inordinate desires may rest there. Purge our hearts from envy, hatred and malice: that we may never suffer the sun to go down upon our wrath; but may always go to our rest in peace, charity, and good-will, with a conscience void of offence towards thee, and towards men: That so we may be preserved pure and blameless, unto the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.

TEXTS.

Again when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. Ezekiel xviii, 27.

If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John i, 8, 9.

— From Psalter. Psalm xxvii, 1, 2, 7. —

Unto thee will I cry, O Lord, my strength; think no scorn of me; lest if thou make as though thou hearest not, I become like them that go down into

the pit. Hear the voice of my humble petitions, when I cry unto thee; when I hold up my hands towards the mercy-seat of thy holy temple.—Praised be the Lord, for he hath heard the voice of my humble petitions.

—Selection of Psalms lxxx, Verses 1.—

When I pour out my soul in prayer,
Do thou O Lord, attend;
To thy eternal throne of grace
Let my sad cry ascend.

—Hymn 59, Verses 2, 3, 5.—

Yet sovereign mercy calls "Return";
  Dear Lord, and may I come?
My vile ingratitude I mourn;
  O take the wanderer home.

And canst thou, wilt thou yet forgive,
  And bid my crimes remove?
And shall a pardoned rebel live
  To speak thy wondrous love?

Thy pardoning love, so free, so sweet,
  Dear Saviour, I adore:
O keep me at thy sacred feet,
  And let me rove no more.

COLLECT.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent, create and make in us, new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Father of all my joy,
Shall I not bring to Thee
The griefs which oft oppress,
Which sadly trouble me?
Wilt Thou not hear my prayer,
And from Thy throne on high
In mercy lend Thine ear
And graciously reply?

Dangers surround my path,
Temptations fright my soul,
And trials make me yield
To grief beyond control:
The weight of all my sins
Is painful to be borne;
I ask thy firm support:
Oh! leave me not alone!

Dear Saviour, Thou hast said
Thy grace shall ever be
Sufficient to the need,
Of all who trust in Thee:
Oh! wilt Thou grant me faith
To view Thy blest abode,
Still trusting in Thy grace
Closely to walk with God.

LOUISA S. TOWNSEND.

MONDAY BEFORE EASTER.

"SAVIOUR when in dust, to Thee,
Low we bow th' adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our streaming eyes;
O by all thy pains and woe,
Suffered once for man below,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our solemn litany".

TEXTS.

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. St. Matthew xxi, 22.

And ye shall be hated of all men, for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. St. Mark xiii, 13.

And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, and could not find

what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him. St. Luke xix, 47, 48.

The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold the world has gone after him. St. John xii, 19.

PRAYER.

Lord, we beseech thee grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm xxxiii, Verses 10, 11, 12.—

The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought, and maketh the devices of the people to be of none effect, and casteth out the counsels of princes. The counsel of the Lord shall endure for ever, and the thoughts of his heart from generation to generation. Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord Jehovah; and blessed are the folk that he hath chosen to him to be his inheritance.

—Selection of Psalms x, 1, 2 —

How long wilt thou forget me Lord?
Must I for ever mourn?
How long wilt thou withdraw from me,
Oh! never to return?

O hear, and to my longing eyes
Restore Thy wonted light;
Dawn on my spirit, lest I sleep
In death's most gloomy night.

— Hymn 160, Verses 1, 2, 3. —

When gathering clouds around I view,
And days are dark, and friends are few,
On him I lean, who not in vain,
Experienced every human pain;
He feels my griefs, he sees my fears
And counts and treasures up my tears.

If aught should tempt my soul to stray
From heavenly wisdom's narrow way,
To fly the good I would pursue,
Or do the ill I would not do;
Still He who felt temptation's power,
Shall guard me in that dangerous hour.

When vexing thoughts within me rise
And, sore dismayed, my spirit dies;
Then He, who once vouchsafed to bear
The sickening anguish of despair,
Shall sweetly soothe, shall gently dry
The throbbing heart, the streaming eye.

COLLECT.

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Look out beyond, for darkness is within!
Hear not too much thy heart, but hear thy Saviour speak;
Scan not too closely every secret sin,
Look up unto thy God, He knows that thou art weak.

Shut not the haunted chambers of thy heart,
Where hide the sullen shapes of Sin and grim Despair,
But throw thy "soul's large windows" wide apart
Until God's glowing sunshine flood it everywhere!

Then listen while the loving Father cries:
"Poor child! My everlasting arms shall thee support;
Have faith to lean on me,—Awake! Arise!
But go no more astray, for thee I long have sought."

Oh cease from sin, and pray and hope and trust;—
Repentant thought should stir thee up to noblest deed:
For others be thy tears, if weep thou must,
Then tell them of God's love till they rejoice indeed!

M. E. Townsend.

TUESDAY BEFORE EASTER.

"By thy birth and early years,
By thy human griefs and fears,
  By thy fasting and distress
  In the lonely wilderness,
By thy victory in the hour
Of the subtle tempter's power;
  Jesus look with pitying eye;
Hear our solemn litany."

TEXTS.

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him. Lamentations iii, 26, 27, 28.

And being found in fashion as a man he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Phil. ii, 8.

But rejoice inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings, that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1 Peter iv, 13.

PRAYER.

From all sedition, privy conspiracy and rebellion; from all false doctrine, heresy and schism; from hardness of heart and contempt of thy word and commandment: Good Lord deliver us.

(From the Litany)

— From Psalter, Psalm lxiv, 1, 2, 3, ,7. —

Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer; preserve my life from fear of the enemy. Hide me from the gathering together of the froward, and from the insurrection of wicked doers; who have whet their tongue like a sword, and shoot out their arrows, even bitter words; that they may privily shoot at him that is perfect; suddenly do they hit him and fear not. But God shall suddenly shoot at them with a swift arrow, that they shall be wounded.

— Selection of Psalm xvii, Part 3, Verse 5. —

The meek companions of my grief
Shall find my table spread;
And all that seek the Lord shall be
With joys immortal fed.

— Hymn 143. —

Jesus Saviour of my soul,
  Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the waves of trouble roll,
  While the tempest tsill is high:
Hide me, O my Saviour hide,
  Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
  O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
  Hangs my helpless soul on thee:
Leave, ah! leave not alone,
  Still support and comfort me:
All my trust on thee is stayed,
  All my hope from thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
  With the shadow of thy wing.

COLLECT.

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Art thou weary? Art thou languid?
Art thou sore distressed?
"Come to me", saith One, "and coming
Be at rest".

Hath He marks to lead me to Him,
If He be my guide?
"In His feet and hands are wound-prints
And His side".

Is there diadem as Monarch,
That His brow adorns?
"Yea, a crown, in very surety
But of thorns!"

If I find Him, if I follow
What His guerdon here?
"Many a sorrow, many a labour,
Many a tear."

If I still cling closely to Him,
What hath He at last?
"Sorrow vanquished, labour ended,
Jordan pass'd".

If I ask Him to receive me,
Will He say me nay?
"Not till earth, and not till Heaven
Pass away!"

Finding, following, keeping, struggling,
Is He sure to bless?
"Angels, martyrs, prophets, virgins,
Answer, Yes!"

SELECTED.

WEDNESDAY BEFORE EASTER.

By thine hour of dark despair,
By thine agony of prayer,
  By the purple robe of scorn,
  By thy wounds, thy crown of thorn,
By thy cross, thy pangs and cries,
By thy perfect sacrifice;
  Jesus, look with pitying eye,
  Hear our solemn litany.

TEXTS.

Watch ye and pray lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready but the flesh is weak. St. Mark xiv, 38.

Behold the hour cometh, yea is now come that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone; and yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. St. Matt. xvi, 32.

Little children yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me; and as I said unto the Jews, whither I go ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

St. John xiii, 33

But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart I will send him unto you.

St. John xvi, 6, 7.

PRAYER.

O God, forasmuch as without thee, we are not able to please thee; mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

— From Psalter, Psalm xxxiv, 33, 34, 38. —

The ungodly seeth the rigteous, and seeketh occasion to slay him. The Lord will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. Keep innocency and take heed unto the thing that is right; for that shall bring a man peace at the last.

— Selection of Psalms xxii, Verses 6, 9. —

Though all of nearest earthly ties
Me, in my woe forsake,
Yet thou whose love excels them all
Wilt care and pity take.

God's time with patient faith expect,
Who will inspire thy breast
With inward strength, do thou thy part
And leave to Him the rest.

— Hymn 133, Verses 3, 5. —

Bowed down beneath a load of sin,
By Satan sorely pressed,
By war without and fear within
I come to Thee for rest.
Oh wondrous love, to bleed and die
To bear the Cross and shame,
That guilty sinners, such as I
Might plead thy gracious Name.

COLLECT.

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

DE PROFUNDIS.

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee O Lord; Lord hear my voice. Psalm cxxx.

In the depths of grief I lie;
Saviour look with loving eye,
Listen to my wailing cry
De profundis.

I have sinned and gone astray
From the safe and narrow way;
Now for mercy Lord I pray
De profundis.

Jesus! leave me not alone
For my sins I meekly own,
And my troubled heart doth groan
De profundis.

Broken heart and bended knee,
Saviour, thus I come to thee!
Pity then, and rescue me
De profundis.

And through all my future days,
I will strive to sing thy praise
When thou dost my spirit raise
De profundis.

M. E. Townsend.

THURSDAY BEFORE EASTER.

"By thy deep expiring groan,
By the sealed sepulchral stone,
By thy triumph o'er the grave,
By thy power from death to save;
Mighty God, ascended Lord,
To thy throne in Heaven restored,
Prince and Saviour hear our cry
Hear our solemn litany."

TEXTS.

Pilate therefore said unto him, art thou a King then? Jesus answered, thou sayest that I am a King. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, what is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and said unto them, I find in him no fault at all. But ye have a custom that I should release unto you one at the passover: Will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the

Jews? Then cried they all again, saying, not this man but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

St. John xviii, 37, 38, 39, 40.

And they went and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the Passover. And when the hour was come he sat down and the twelve Apostles with him. And he said unto them, with desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup and gave thanks, and said, Take this and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you. I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

St. Luke xxii, 13—18.

PRAYER.

—From the Litany.—

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all men, we beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord. That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and to turn their hearts, we beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord.

—From the Psalter. Psalm cxix, Part 14, Verses 3, 5, 6, 8.—

(Lucerna pedibus meis.)

I am troubled above measure: quicken me O Lord according to thy word. My soul is alway in my hand, yet do I not forget thy law. The ungodly have laid a snare for me; but yet I swerved

not from thy commandments. I have applied my heart to fulfil thy statutes alway, even unto the end.

— Selection of Psalm lxvii, Verses 4, 5. —

To thee, O Lord, I cry forlorn,
My prayer prevents the early morn:
  Why hast thou, Lord, my soul forsook,
  Nor once vouchsafed a gracious look?

Companions dear and friends beloved,
Far from my sight thou hast removed:
  God of my life, O Lord, most high,
  Vouchsafe to hear my mournful cry!

— Hymn 175. —

Jesus and shall it ever be,
A mortal man ashamed of thee:
Ashamed of thee whom Angels praise,
Whose glories shine through endless days?

Ashamed of Jesus! empty pride;
I'll boast a Saviour crucified,
And, O, may this my portion be,
My Saviour not ashamed of me.

COLLECT.

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender mercy towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

SECRET SIN.

As a dark river rolling underneath
The sun-touched mead its stained and sullen tide,
So doth my soul my lighter life beneath
Its secret weight of sin and sorrow hide.

Thine eye, O God, all-searching and severe,
Alone, amidst thy creatures' blindness sees
How my oppressed and coward soul doth fear
To take its cross, and hides its miseries.

Powerless the world to spare this bitter cup,
Powerless to give my fainting soul relief;
Thy mercy, God, alone can lift me up,
Thy "Everlasting Arms" are underneath!

O Thou, who only searchest out my sin,
O Thou, who only canst my sin forgive,
Teach me, repentant, so to follow Him,
Who bore His Cross, that I may learn to live:

Then, as the river bursting to the light
Casts in the sunshine all its stains away,
May my strong soul, after this Lenten night,
Regenerate rise to greet the promised Day!

J. T.

GOOD FRIDAY.

"See, He comes forth from the judgement hall wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And who is this that comes forth? It is the Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; it is Jesus of Nazareth, the despised and rejected of men; and yet (Oh wonderful love!) it is our Saviour, our King, our God.—Pilate points him out to us and says, "Behold the Man"!—See there that dim Cross, standing up against the darkened mid-day sky. Trace the suffering form that hangs upon it. Mark the drops of blood falling fast from the piercing thorns upon His sacred head and raining down from the cruel nails, in his holy hands and feet. Once again, "Behold the Man", and know that He you look upon is none other than your God, giving his most precious body, shedding his most precious blood, to save you from the wrath to come".

"He suffered and was buried."

(Nicene Creed.)

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation;
By thy holy Nativity and Circumcision;
By thy Baptism, Fasting and Temptation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and bloody sweat;
By thy Cross and Passion;
By thy precious Death and Burial;
By thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension;
And by the coming of the Holy Ghost,
Good Lord, deliver us.

THE EXHORTATION.

And above all things ye must give most hearty thanks to God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, for the redemption of the world by the death and passion of our Saviour Christ, both God and man; who did humble himself even to the death upon the Cross, for us, miserable sinners who lay in darkness and the shadow of death; that he might make us the children of God, and exalt us to everlasting life.

TEXT.

Who is he that condemneth?—It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh inter-

cession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor Angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans viii, 34, 35, 38, 39.

THE THANKSGIVING.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ: for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

—From Psalter. Psalm xix, 14, 15.—

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be alway acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

—Selection of Psalms lxxxix, Verse 3.—

The Lord hath sworn, nor sworn in vain,
That like Melchizedek's thy reign
And priesthood shall no period see:
Anointed Prince! Thou, bending low
Shalt drink where darkest torrents flow.
Then raise thy head in victory!

—Hymn 150.—

Lord with glowing heart I'd praise thee,
For the bliss thy love bestows;
For the pardoning grace that saves me
And the peace that from it flows:
Help O God my weak endeavor;
This dull soul to rapture raise:
Thou must light the flame or never
Can my love be warmed to praise.

Praise my soul the God that sought thee,
Wretched wanderer far astray;
Found thee lost and kindly brought thee
From the paths of death away;
Praise with love's devoutest feeling
Him who saw thy guilt-born fear,
And the light of hope revealing,
Bade the blood-stained Cross appear.

Lord this bosom's ardent feeling
  Vainly would my lips express;
Low before thy footstool kneeling
  Deign thy supplicant's prayer to bless:
Let thy grace, my soul's chief treasure
  Love's pure flame within me raise:
And, since words can never measure,
  Let my life show forth thy praise.

O God, O kinsman loved, but not enough!
  O man, with eyes majestic after death,
Whose feet have toiled along our pathways rough,
  Whose lips drawn human breath!

By that one likeness which is ours and thine,
  By that one nature which doth hold us kin,
By that high heaven where, sinless, thou dost shine,
  To draw us sinners in,

By Thy last silence in the judgement-hall,
  By long foreknowledge of the deadly tree,
By darkness, by the worm-wood and the gall,
  I pray Thee visit me.

Come, lest this heart should, cold and cast away,
  Die ere the guest adored she entertain
Lest eyes which never saw Thine earthly day
  Should miss Thy heavenly reign.

Come, weary-eyed from seeking in the night
Thy wanderers strayed upon the pathless wold,
Who wounded, dying, cry to Thee for light,
And cannot find their fold.

And deign, O watcher, with the sleepless brow,
Pathetic in its yearning—deign reply:
Is there, O is there aught that such as Thou
Wouldst take from such as I?

Are there no briers across Thy pathway thrust,
Are there no thorns that compass it about?
Nor any stones that Thou wilt deign to trust
My hands to gather out?

O if Thou wilt, and if such bliss might be,
It were a cure for doubt, regret, delay—
Let my lost pathway go—what aileth me?
There is a better way.

JEAN INGELOW.

EASTER EVEN.

AND I LOOK FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME.

(Nicene Creed.)

TEXTS.

Joseph of Arimathea an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. And he bought fine linen, and took him down and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

St. Mark xv, 43, 46.

He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth; for the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah xxv, 8.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord; he that believeth in me, though he were dead yet

shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. St. John xi, 25, 26.

PRAYER.

O merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life; in whom whosoever believeth, shall live though he die; and whosoever liveth and believeth in him shall not die eternally; who also hath taught us, by his holy Apostle Saint Paul, not to be sorry as men without hope, for those who sleep in him; We humbly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; that when we shall depart this life we may rest in him; and that at the general Resurrection in the last day we may be found acceptable in thy sight, and receive that blessing which thy well beloved Son shall then pronounce to all who love and fear Thee, saying, come ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, we beseech Thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm xvi, 9, 10, 11, 12.—

I have set God always before me; for he is on my right hand, therefore I shall not fall. Wherefore my heart was glad, and my glory rejoiced;

my flesh also shall rest in hope. For why? Thou shalt not leave my soul in hell; neither shalt thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption. Thou shalt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

—Selection of Psalms lxx, Part 1, Verse 4.—

Thou shalt call on him in trouble
He will hearken, he will save;
Here for grief reward thee double.
Crown with life beyond the grave.

—Hymn 66, Verses 1, 4, 6.—

'Tis finished; so the Saviour cried,
And meekly bowed his head and died,
'Tis finished; yes, the work is done,
The battle fought, the victory won.

'Tis finished; this my dying groan
Shall sins of every kind atone;
Millions shall be redeemed from death
By this my last expiring breath.

'Tis finished; let the joyful sound
Be heard through all the nations round;
'Tis finished; let the echo fly
Through heaven and hell, through earth and sky.

COLLECT.

Grant, O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of thy blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continual mortifying our corrupt affections we may be buried with him; and that through the grave, and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for his merits who died, and was buried, and rose again for us, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

PROBATION.

Glowing sunny rays of laughter
Warm the beating heart below;
Snowy grief-clouds coming after
Hide the heart 'neath drifts of woe:

Oh, say, if dying now thou art,
Or only waiting, buried heart?

Through the Winter no replying,
But the heart lies cold and still:
Is is waiting? Is it dying?
Only waiting on God's will.

M. E. TOWNSEND.

MONDAY IN EASTER WEEK.

AND THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES. (Nicene Creed.)

TEXTS.

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of Man must be delivered into

the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

St. Luke xxiv, 1—9.

Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself and saith unto him, Rabboni, which is to say Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father and to your Father, and to my God and your God.

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. St. John, xxi, 16, 17, 19.

THE THANKSGIVING.

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty everlasting God. But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious Resurrection of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: for he is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us and hath taken away the sin of the world: who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again, hath restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Angels, and Archangels, and with all the company of Heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord

God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee O Lord Most High. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm lxxiii, 22—25.—

Nevertheless I am away by thee; for thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and after that receive me with glory. Whom have I in Heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire in comparison of thee. My flesh and my heart faileth but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.

—Selection of Psalms cxxiv, 28—30 Verse 2.—

By thee alone the living live,
Hide but thy face, their comforts fly;
They gather what thy seasons give,
Take thou away their breath, they die;
But send again thy Spirit forth
And life renews the gladdened earth.

—Hymn 69, Verses 2, 3.—

Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the victory won;
Jesus' agony is o'er,
Darkness veils the earth no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal,
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
Death in vain forbids him rise,
Christ hath opened Paradise.

COLLECT.

Almighty God who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life; we humbly beseech thee, that, as by thy special grace preventing us thou dost put into our minds good desires so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. AMEN.

DIVINE ORDER.

'Tis first the true and then the beautiful,
  Not first the beautiful and then the true;
First the wild moor with rock and reed and pool,
  Then the gay garden, rich in scent and hue.

'Tis first the good and then the beautiful,
  Not first the beautiful and then the good;
First the rough seed sown in the rougher soil
  Then the flower-blossom or the branching wood.

Not first the glad and then the sorrowful,
  But first the sorrowful and then the glad;
Tears for a day,—for earth of tears is full,—
  Then we forget that we were ever sad.

Not first the bright and after that the dark,
  But first the dark and after that the bright;
First the thick cloud and then the rainbow's arc,
  First the dark grave, then resurrection-light.

'Tis first the night,—stern night of storm and war
  Long nights of heavy clouds and veiled skies,
Then the far-sparkle of the Morning-Star,
  That bids the saints awake and dawn arise!

HORATIUS BONAR.

TUESDAY IN EASTER WEEK.

TEXTS.

And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a sepulchre. But God raised him from the dead: and he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

Acts xiii, 29, 30, 31.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

1 Cor. xv, 2, 3.

PRAYER.

O Lord the only-begotten Son Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon

us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. (From the Gloria in Excelsis.)

—From Psalter. Psalm xxiii, Verses 2, 3, 4.—

The Lord is my Shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

—Selection of Psalms xiii. Verse 3.—

Therefore my heart all grief defies.
  My glory does rejoice;
My flesh shall rest, in hope to rise
  Waked by his powerful voice.

—Hymn 61, Verses 1, 2.—

Who is this that comes from Edom,
  All his raiment stained with blood.
To the captive speaking freedom,
  Bringing and bestowing good;
Glorious in the garb he wears,
Glorious in the spoil he bears?

'Tis the Saviour, now victorious,
  Travelling onward in his might;
'Tis the Saviour, O how glorious
  To his people is the sight!
Satan conquered and the grave,
Jesus now is strong to save.

COLLECT.

Almighty Father who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

'Tis light at evening time when Thou art present:
  Thy coming to the eleven in that dim room
  Brightened, O Christ! its gloom:
So bless my lonely hour that memories pleasant
  Around the time a heavenly gleam may cast,
  Which many days shall last!

Raise each low aim, refine each high emotion,
  That with more ardent footstep I may press
  Toward Thy holiness;
And, braced for sacred duty by devotion,
  Support my cross along that rugged road
  Which Thou hast sometime trod!

I long to see Thee, for my heart is weary:
  O when, my Lord! in kindness wilt Thou come
  To call Thy banished home?
The scenes are cheerless, and the days are dreary;
  From sorrow and from sin I would be free,
  And evermore with Thee!

Even now I see the golden city shining
  Up the blue depths of that transparent air:
  How happy all is there!
There breaks a day which never knows declining;
  A Sabbath, through whose circling hours the blest
  Beneath Thy shadow rest!

James D. Burns.

SAINT MARK'S DAY.

APRIL 25.

Saint Mark who wrote the gospel which bears his name, was the companion and disciple of Saint Peter in all his travels. By Saint Peter he was sent into Egypt where he founded the Church at Alexandria. He afterwards went into Libya, where he converted many of the inhabitants to Christianity. While he was celebrating divine service on Easter Day, he was seized by a number of idolaters, who dragged him along the ground to prison. Early the next morning they dragged him again on the the ground, which so tore off his flesh that he expired in their arms.

TEXTS.

Make me to understand the way of thy precepts, so shall I talk of thy wondrous works; the law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,

and a light unto my path. Thy word is very pure, therefore thy servant loveth it.

Psalm cxix, 27, 72, 105, 140.

PRAYER.

O Lord we beseech thee to keep thy Church, and household, continually in thy true religion; that they who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace, may evermore be defended by thy mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm cxliii, Verse 10.—

Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth thee; for thou art my God: let thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness.

—Selection of Psalms cxvii, Verse 4.—

My tongue the praises of thy word
Shall thankfully resound;
For thy commands are right, thy laws
With truth and justice crowned.

—Hymn 2, Verse 1.—

Father of mercies! in thy word.
What endless glory shines!
Forever be thy name adored
For these celestial lines.

COLLECT.

O Almighty God, who hast instructed thy Holy Church with the doctrine of thy Evangelist Saint Mark; give us grace that, being not like children carried away by every blast of vain doctrine, we may be established in the truth of thy holy Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

JOY IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE ONLY.

"Object of my first desire
  Jesus crucified for me,
All to happiness aspire;
  I would it seek, Lord, in Thee:
Thee to praise, and Thee to know,
Make the joy of Saints below:
  Thee to see, and Thee to love,
  Make the bliss of Saints above.

Lord it is not life to live,
  If Thy presence Thou deny;
Lord, if Thou Thy presence give;
  'Tis no longer death to die:
Source and giver of repose,
Only from Thy love it flows;
  Peace and happiness are Thine:
  Mine they are if Thou art mine".

SAINT PHILIP AND SAINT JAMES' DAY.

MAY 1.

IT is believed that Saint Philip preached the gospel in Upper Asia. On account of his success in making converts he was thrown into prison, and afterwards scourged and crucified. Saint James the Less, surnamed the Just, was the son of Alpheus or Cleopas. He presided over the Church at Jerusalem. At the feast of the Passover, the Scribes and Pharisees threw him from a battlement of the Temple, and then, while he prayed for his persecutors, stoned him to death. (A. D. 62.)

TEXTS.

Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip findeth Nathaniel and saith unto him, we have found him of whom Moses in the Law, and the Prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth the son of Joseph. And Nathaniel said unto him, can

there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. St. John, i, 44, 45, 46.

And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him saying, Sir we would see Jesus.

St. John xii, 20, 21.

James the son of Alpheus.— St. Matth. x, 2, 3, 4.

James a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. Epistle of St. James i, 1.

Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his ways shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. St. James v, 19, 20.

PRAYER.

Almighty God who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life; give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit; and also daily endeavor ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm xvii, Verses 5, 7.—

O hold Thou up my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps slip not. Show thy marvellous loving-kindness, thou that art the Saviour of them which put their trust in Thee, from such as resist Thy right hand.

—Selection of Psalms xcvi, Verse 3.—

Far better 'tis to trust in God,
And have the Lord our friend
Than on the greatest human power
For safety to depend.

—Hymn 209, Verse 1.—

Thou art the Way, to thee alone
From sin and death we flee;
And he who would the Father seek
Must seek him, Lord, by Thee.

COLLECT.

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life; grant us perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life; that, following the steps of Thy Holy Apostles, Saint Philip and Saint James, we may steadfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

GRIEF.

There's good in tears, or they had not been sent
  By him who is all good! It is not wise
To keep our sorrows in our hearts up pent
  When we can give them freedom from our eyes.

The storm-cloud only darkens our fair earth,
  Until it falleth down in gentle rain;
And then what wondrous beauties have their birth;
  So, when the heart is overcharged with pain

We see a shadow upon every good;
  But let our heavy sorrows have their way,
And as they well into a tearful flood
  What comfort may not come? Ah, who can say?

Grief has a mission holier than joy;
  It moves the selfish, and it warms the cold;
A common sorrow will e'en pain destroy,
  And change the King and beggar to one mould.

Our griefs should make us gentler to our kind,
  And as we comfort need more comfort pay;
So using sorrow, we our tears shall find
  Have washed some grossness of our souls away.

SELECTED.

ASCENSION DAY.

WHEN thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. (From the TE DEUM.)

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto thee O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God; through thy most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his most glorious Resurrection, manifestly appeared to all his Apostles, and in their sight ascended up into Heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, thither we might also ascend, and reign with him in glory. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of Heaven, we laud, aud magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and say-

ing, holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and Earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee O Lord, most high. AMEN.

TEXTS.

I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of Heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. Daniel vii, 13, 14.

Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, which was, and is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation i, 7. 8.

PRAYER.

O God, the King of Glory, who hast exalted thy only Son Jesus Christ, with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; we beseech thee leave us not comfortless; but send to us thy Holy Spirit to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ has gone before, who liveth and

reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm lvii, Verses 10, 11, 12.—

I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the people; and I will sing unto thee among the nations. For the greatness of thy mercy reacheth unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. Set up thyself, O God, above the heavens, and thy glory above all the earth.

—Selection of Psalms cxviii, Verses 6, 7.—

All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee,
  Thee shall all thy saints adore;
King supreme shall they confess thee,
  And proclaim thy sovereign power.

They thy might, all might excelling,
  Shall to all mankind make known;
And the brightness of thy dwelling,
  And the glories of thy throne.

—Hymn 73, Verses 4, 6.—

Who is the King of Glory, who?
  The Lord who all his foes o'ercame,
The world, sin, death, and hell o'erthrew;
  And Jesus is the Conqueror's name.

Who is the King of Glory, who?
  The Lord, of boundless power possessed,
The King of Saints and angels too,
  God over all, for ever blest.

COLLECT.

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the Heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. AMEN.

WHAT WE SHALL BE.

What shall we be, when the freed soul can rise
With unrestrained and bold aspiring flight
To Him, who by His wondrous sacrifice,
Hath opened heaven, and scattered sin's dark night;
When from the eye of faith the thin veil drops,
Like wreaths of mists before the morning's rays,
And we behold the end of all our hopes,
The Son of God iu full refulgent blaze!

What shall we be, when we shall hear Him say;
"Come, O ye blessed", when we see Him stand,
Robed in the light of everlasting day,
Before the throne of God at His right hand;
When we behold the eyes from which once flowed
Tears o'er the sin and misery of man,
And the deep wounds from which the precious blood,
That made atonement for the world once ran!

What shall we be, who have in Christ believed,
What through His grace will be our sweet reward!
Eye hath not seen, ear heard, or heart conceived,
What God for those who love Him hath prepared;
Let us the steep ascent then boldly climb,
Our toil and labor will be well repaid;
Let us haste onward, till in God's good time
We reap the fruit, a crown that doth not fade.

SPITTA.
(Massie's translation.)

MONDAY IN WHITSUN-WEEK.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY GHOST.

(Nicene Creed.)

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; according to whose most true promise the Holy Ghost came down, as at this time from Heaven, with a sudden great sound, as it had been a mighty wind, in the likeness of fiery tongues, lighting upon the Apostles, to teach them, and to lead them to all truth; giving them both the gift of divers languages, and also boldness with fervent zeal constantly to preach the gospel to all nations; whereby we have been brought out of darkness and error into the clear light and the knowledge of thee and of thy Son Jesus Christ. Therefore with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of Heaven, we

laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee O Lord Most High. AMEN.

TEXTS.

These things have I spoken to you being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

St. John xiv. 25, 26.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Acts ii, 38, 39.

PRAYER.

Almighty and ever-living God, who hast vouchsafed to regenerate these thy servants by Water and the Holy Ghost, and hast given unto them forgiveness of all their sins; strengthen them, we beseech thee O Lord, with the Holy Ghost the Comforter, and daily increase in them thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the spirit

of knowledge and true godliness; and fill them O Lord, with the spirit of thy holy fear, now and for ever. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm xxii, Verses 24, 25.—

My praise is of thee in the great congregation; my vows will I perform in the sight of them that fear him. All the ends of the world shall remember themselves, and be turned unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before him.

—Selection of Psalms liii, Verses 4, 5.—

Ascending high in triumph thou
Captivity hast captive led,
And on thy people didst bestow
Thy gifts and graces freely shed.

E'en rebels shall partake thy grace,
And humble proselytes repair
To worship at thy dwelling-place
And all the world pay homage there.

—Hymn 75, Verses 1, 3, 4.—

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove,
With all thy quickening powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.

In vain we tune our lifeless songs,
  In vain we strive to rise;
Hosannas languish on our tongues
  And our devotion dies.

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove,
  With all thy quickening powers;
Come, shed abroad a Saviour's love.
  And that shall kindle ours.

COLLECT.

O God, who as at this time, didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; grant us by the same Spirit, to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort: through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee iu the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. AMEN.

"O Holy Ghost, who from the Father flowest
And from the Son, O teach me how to pray;
Thou, who the love and peace of God bestowest,
With faith and hope inspire and cheer my way;
Direct, control, and sanctify each motion
Within my soul, and make it thus to be
Prayerful, and still, and full of deep devotion,
A holy temple worthy, Lord, of Thee."

TUESDAY IN WHITSUN-WEEK.

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God, for the precious death and merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and for sending to us the Holy Ghost the Comforter, who are one with thee in thy Eternal Godhead. Therefore with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of Heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee O Lord most High. AMEN.

TEXTS.

For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground; I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring. One shall say, I am the Lord's, and

another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel.

Isaiah lxiv, 3, 5.

So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. As for me, this is my covenant with them saith the Lord; my spirit which is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever.

Isaiah lix, 19, 21.

But ye beloved, building up yourselves in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, unto eternal life.

Epistle of Jude, 20, 21.

PRAYER.

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, who of thy divine Providence hast appointed divers Orders in thy Church, give thy grace we humbly beseech thee, to all those who are to be called to any office and administration in the same, and so replenish them with the truth of thy doctrine, and endue them with innocency of life, that they may faithfully serve thee, to thy glory of thy great name, and the benefit of thy Holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm li, Verses 11, 12, 13.—

Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. O give me the comfort of thy help again, and stablish me with thy free Spirit. Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

—Selection of Psalms cxvii, Part 1, Verses 7, 8.—

Thy love through earth extends its fame,
  To all thy works expressed;
These show thy praise, whilst thy great Name
  Is by thy servants blessed.

They with a glorious prospect fired,
  Shall of thy kingdom speak;
And thy great power, by all admired,
  Their lofty subject make.

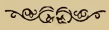
—Hymn 104, Verses 1, 4.—

O, Spirit of the living God,
  In all thy plenitude of grace,
Where e'er the foot of man hath trod,
  Descend on our apostate race.

Convert the nations; far and high
  The triumphs of the cross record;
The name of Jesus glorify,
  Till every people call him Lord.

COLLECT.

O God who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of the Holy Spirit; grant us by the same Spirit, to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. AMEN.



JESUS OF NAZARETH PASSETH BY.

"What meaneth this eager and gathering throng?
I hear it and feel how it rushes along;
Oh, wherefore are sighs intermingled with song"?
Thus a blind man calls till they make reply:
"Hush! Jesus of Nazareth passeth by".

Yes, Jesus of Nazareth walketh so near,
He passeth him by,—yet He pauseth to hear:
That strong earnest cry hath attracted His ear;
His mission is mercy, and that is why
The Saviour of Nazareth passeth by.

Then be not afraid in His pathway to tread,
But quick, let before Him the blind man be led;
O'er the deaf and the dumb shall "Ephphatha" be said:
Lo! e'en the vile leper is crouching nigh,
For Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

No anguishing heart groaned before Him in vain,
He dried every tear, and relieved every pain:
But that was of old; doth His love yet remain?
  Breaking hearts of to-day, may you and I
  See Jesus of Nazareth passing by?

By Galilee's shores, on Lake Genesaret,
Through the city of Nain, on Mount Olivet,
Sweet trace of His footsteps is lingering yet;
  His love is eternal,—though now no eye
  Sees Jesus of Nazareth passing by.

His love is eternal, and, oh! we are blest
In feeling His presence, His arm giving rest;
We sob out our sorrows that torture the breast
  Then hear a sweet voice that yields sigh for sigh
  As Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

And whether at home when the black clouds lower,
Or whether at sea, when the storm hath power;
In the horrible wilds! In the soul's dark hour!
  In vain shall all terrors our faint hearts try
  If Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

Poor Captive, with hands on the cold, iron bar,
Whose sad eyes are watching the bright evening-star,
There comes a soft footfall to THEE, from afar!
  Not the sentinel's tread: no! no!—do not sigh!
  It was Jesus of Nazareth passing by.

God's Peace now illumines the dungeon's damp floor,
And Hope singeth out where Despair wept before:
Lo! Death's soothing angel hath opened his door!
  All weary, the penitent smiles to die
  Since Jesus of Nazareth passed by.

Both the lofty and lowly in horror do flee,
From the Outcasts of earth and their heart-breaking glee;
Yet, may God, in His pity, from sin set them free!
  Then they, even they, shall by and by
  Find Jesus of Nazareth passing by.

When the light has gone out from loved eyes that shone,
And the hand moves no longer to grasp with our own,
Then we turn from the grave with a shudder and groan,
Asking: "Who will watch over them there all alone?"
Yes, thus in the gloom of the night we cry
Then hear, as from Heaven, this sweet reply:
"Thy Dead in the churchyard in peace do lie!
In the Saviour's love, it is safe to die!
  And holy the Watcher, for ever nigh,
  'Tis Jesus of Nazareth passing by".

M. E. Townsend.

SAINT BARNABAS' DAY.

JUNE 11.

THE original name of Barnabas was Joses, to which the Apostles added the surname of Barnabas. This name signifies the son of consolation, so called perhaps because he sold his land, and brought the money to the Apostles for the relief of the poor. He was a Jew of the tribe of Levi, of the country of Cyprus, who became a follower of Christ, and was afterwards an Apostle. Acts xiv, 14.

Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas were connected in their ministry. Saint Barnabas began preaching the Gospel at Antioch, the place where the name Christians was first given to the followers of Christ. It is supposed that he suffered martyrdom at Salamis in the island of Cyprus.

TEXTS.

And Joses, who by the Apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is being interpreted, the Son of

consolation) a Levite and of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the Apostles' feet. Acts xiv, 36, 37.

It seemed good for us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts xv, 25, 26.

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. 1 Thess. ii, 8.

PRAYER.

Stir up we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

—From Psalter. Psalm cxlv, Verses 5, 7, 8.—

As for me I will be talking of thy worship, thy glory, thy praise, and wondrous works. The memorial of thy abundant kindness shall be showed; and men shall sing of thy righteousness. The Lord is gracious and merciful; long suffering and of great goodness.

— Selection of Psalms xxix, Verse 5. —

O make but trial of his love,
Experience will decide
How blest they are, and only they
Who in his truth confide.

— Hymn 176, Verse 5. —

I want a true regard,
  A single, steady aim,
Unmoved by threatening or reward
  To thee and thy great name;
A jealous just concern
  For thine immortal praise;
A pure desire that all may learn
  And glorify thy grace.

COLLECT.

O Lord God Almighty, who didst endue thy Apostle Barnabas with singular gifts of the Holy Ghost; leave us not, we beseech thee, destitute of thy manifold gifts; nor yet of grace to use them alway to thy honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

OUR SAINTS.

A heartfelt smile, a gentle tone,
  A thoughtful word, a tender touch,
A passing act of kindness done,
  'Tis all, but it is much.

The motions of a heart set free
  From all-absorbing, selfish care,
A sweet concern that seems to me
  Like an unspoken prayer.

A look that reads the inmost heart,
  Yet not with scrutiny severe,
Nor as of one who sits apart,
  Nor knows our pain and fear;

But as of one who, feeling all
  That we have felt, of sweet or sad,
Has right to burst our sorrow's thrall,
  And bid us still be glad.

These are not things to win applause;
  No earthly fame awaiteth such;
Yet surely by the heavenly laws
  They are accounted much.

Much in a world where fret and strain
  Wear daily on each finer sense;
Much to the heart whose secret pain
  Draws help, it knows not whence;

Much to the faithless soul that heeds
  No truth that reason cannot prove;
For better than a thousand creeds
  Is the sweet work of love.

And they who give without restraint
  Such gifts, and ask them not again;
What is there in the name of saint
  That they should not obtain?

I think the angels in their height
  Might look to earth and envy them,
And bend from out the spheres of light
  To touch their garments' hem.

And that to brighter realms unknown
  Some joy, perchance, they may impart;
For He who sits upon the throne
  Once blest the pure in heart.

H. N. E.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST'S DAY.

JUNE 24.

"JOHN the Baptist was the predicted forerunner of Jesus, and his mission forms the connecting link between the Old and the New Testaments.—He was the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth, and took the name which distinguishes him from John the Apostle and Evangelist, from his administration of the rite of Baptism to the multitudes of Judea and to our blessed Lord. He was beheaded in prison by order of Herod Antipas, the same Herod who mocked Jesus and arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe".

TEXTS.

And thou child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his way; to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited

us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. St. Luke i, 76—79.

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preached the remission of sins. St. Mark i, 4.

Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. St. Matt. iii, 5, 6.

When the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness which he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. Ezekiel viii, 27.

And now why tarriest thou? arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. Acts xxii, 16.

PRAYER.

Grant O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of thy blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continual mortifying our corrupt affections, we may be buried with him; and through the grave, and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for his merits who died and was buried and rose again for us, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

— From Psalter. Psalm lxxxv, 9, 10, 11, 12. —

For his salvation is nigh them that fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth

have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall flourish out of the earth, and righteousness hath looked down from heaven. Yea, the Lord shall show loving-kindness, and our land shall give her increase. Righteousness shall go before him; and he shall direct his going in the way.

— Selection of Psalms civ, Verses 3, 5, 6. —

My soul with patience waits
  For thee, the living Lord;
My hopes are on thy promise built,
  Thy never-failing word.

Let Israel trust in God,
  No bounds his mercy knows;
The plenteous source and spring from whence
  Eternal succour flows;

Whose friendly streams to us
  Supplies in want convey;
A healing spring, a spring to cleanse
  And wash our guilt away.

— Hymn 151, Verses 1, 2, 4, 6. —

Lord, my God, I long to know,
  Oft it causes anxious thought;
Do I love thee, Lord, or no?
  Am I thine, or am I not?

Could my heart so hard remain,
  Prayer a task and burden prove,
Any duty give me pain
  If I knew a Saviour's love?

Yet I mourn my stubborn will,
  Find my sin a grief and thrall;
Should I grieve for what I feel.
  If I did not love at all?

Saviour let me love thee more,
  If I love at all, I pray;
If I have not loved before,
  Help me to begin to day.

COLLECT.

Almighty God, by whose providence thy servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of thy Son our Saviour, by preaching repentance; make us so to follow his doctrine and holy life, that we may truly repent, according to his preaching; and after his example constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PROMISE AND THE PRESENCE.

Not the pained, patient, desperate toiling on
Of the lost wanderer in a starless night,
Not the slow, sightless groping ere the Dawn
Brings to the pilgrim promise, guidance, light;
Christian not such thy state,
Weary thou need'st not wait:
Mercies propitiate
Make thy way homeward straight.

And not as those who in the wilderness,
Heard with roused souls John's warning that there trod
Close in his path One wise to weigh and bless,
But, doubting, knew not yet the promised God:
Christian! John's warning cry
Christ's Presence standeth nigh;
Cast not that promise by,
Nor from the Presence fly!

That fiery cry which woke the wilderness
With strange and startling sense, from land to land
And age to age comes burning down to us
On herald-lips: "The Christ! He is at hand!"
Christian! Not this the day,
Doubting, to make delay;
Christ comes! When, who can say?
Cease not to watch and pray!

J. T.

SAINT PETER'S DAY.

JUNE 29.

THE Apostle Simon Peter was the brother of Andrew and son of Jona; and was a fisherman. Our Lord gave to him the surname of Peter, which signifies in Greek, Rock. He is also called Cephas, which likewise means, in the Syriac tongue, Rock or Stone. He was zealous, devoted, courageous, and many times conspicuous in the history of our Saviour's life on earth. Saint Peter and Saint John were sent by Jesus to bring the ass on which he was to ride into Jerusalem: and they two were also sent from Bethany to Jerusalem to prepare the passover. Saint Peter, with Saint John and Saint James, was chosen by the Lord to go with Him and witness the miracle of the raising from the dead of the daughter of Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue: the same three Apostles went up to the mount, at the time of our Lord's Transfiguration: and they were witnesses of the "Agony in the Garden". Yet, when the terrible moment of temptation came, Peter denied his Master!

But after our Saviour's resurrection, He spoke most touchingly to the bitterly repenting Apostle, and three times said: "Lovest thou me? Feed my lambs." Saint Peter wrote two general Epistles; one A. D. 60, the other A. D. 66. At the close of his second Epistle he warns "the beloved in the Lord" to beware lest they fall from their own steadfastness. He was crucified, it is said, with his head downwards at Rome A. D. 69.

TEXTS.

And Jesus walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets and followed him.

St. Matth. iv, 18, 19, 20.

And the Lord turned and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, before the cock crow thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out and wept bitterly. St. Luke xxii, 61, 62.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, goeth about seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

1 Peter v, 8, 9.

He saith unto him the third time, Simon son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because

he said unto him the third time, "Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. St. John xv, 19.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Acts iv, 13.

PRAYER.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; and to comfort and help the weak-hearted; and to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet; We beseech thee to hear us good Lord.

—From Psalter. Psalm xvii 5; Psalm xxxiv, 13; Psalm li, 9, 13.—

O hold thou up my goings in thy paths that my footsteps slip not.

Keep thy tongue from evil and thy lips that they speak no guile. Turn thy face from my sins and put out all my misdeeds. Make me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. O give me the comfort of thy help again, and stablish me with thy free Spirit. Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

— Selection of Psalms xcvii. —

How blest are they who always keep
  The pure and perfect way;
Who never from the sacred paths
  Of God's commandments stray!

O, then, that thy most holy will
  Might o'er my ways preside;
And I, the course of all my life
  By thy direction guide.

—Hymn 176, Verse 3.—

I want a godly fear
A quick, discerning eye,
That looks to thee when sin is near
And sees the tempter fly;
A spirit still prepared,
And armed with jealous care,
For ever standing on its guard,
And watching unto prayer.

COLLECT.

Almighty God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to thy Apostle Saint Peter many excellent gifts, and commandedst him earnestly to feed thy flock: Make we beseech thee all Bishops and Pastors diligently to preach thy holy Word, and the people obediently to follow the same, that they may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HUMBLE SERVICE.

It is an easy thing to say,
  "Thou knowest that I love Thee, Lord!"
And easy in the bitter fray
  For His defence to draw the sword.

But when at His dear hands we seek
  Some lofty trust for Him to keep,
To our ambition vain and weak
  How strange His bidding: "Feed my sheep."

"Too mean a task for love", we cry:
  Remembering not, if in our pride
We pass His humble service by,
  Our vows are by our deeds denied.

O Father! help us to resign
  Our hearts, our strength, our wills to Thee;
Then e'en the lowliest work of Thine
  Most noble, blest, and sweet will be!

H. Mc. E. Kimball.

SAINT JAMES' THE APOSTLE'S DAY.

JULY 25.

SAINT James was brother to John the beloved disciple, and son of Zebedee a noted fisherman, of Galilee. Our Saviour gave to them both the surname of Boanerges or "Sons of Thunder", on account of their eloquent zeal. James with his brother John and Simon Peter witnessed Christ's Transfiguration and His agony in the garden of Gethsemane. Saint James preached the Gospel in Samaria and Judea where he suffered martyrdom. Herod Agrippa "killed James, the brother of John with the sword".

See Acts ii.

"He was the first of the twelve Apostles who suffered martydom, and the only one whose martyrdom is recorded in the Holy Scriptures.—Particulars of the deaths of all the Apostles are given in the ecclesastical Histories of the times in which they lived".

TEXTS.

And going on from thence he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them, and they immediately left the ship and their father and followed him.

St Matt. iv, 21, 22.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

St. Matt. xvii, 24, 25.

And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart. And was transfigured before them; and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

St. Matt. xvii, 1, 2.

About that time Herod the King stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the Church, and he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Acts xii, 1, 2.

PRAYER.

O Almighty and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things which thou commandest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

— From Psalter, Psalm xxvii, Verses 14, 15. —

The ungodly have drawn out the sword and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy and to slay such as are of a right conversation. Their sword shall go through their own heart, and their bow shall be broken.

— Selection of Psalms xxvi, Verses 8, 9. —

O all ye Saints, the Lord
With eager love pursue;
Who to the just will help afford,
And give the proud their due.

Ye that on God rely,
Courageously proceed;
For he will still your hearts supply
With strength in time of need.

— Hymn 212, Verse 1. —

Lo! what a cloud of witnesses
Encompass us around;
Men once like us with suffering tried,
But now with glory crowned.

COLLECT.

Grant O merciful God, that as thine Holy Apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, without delay was obedient unto the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ and followed him; so we, forsaking all worldly and carnal affections may be evermore ready to follow thy holy commandments, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

THE USES OF LIFE.

"Though we climb fame's proudest height,
  Though we sit on hills afar,
  Where the thrones of triumph are;
Though all deepest mysteries be open to our sight;
  If we win not by that power
  For the world another dower,
If this great humanity share not in our gain,
We have lived our life in vain."

"Though our lot be calm and bright;
  Though upon our brows we wear
  Youth, and grace, and beauty rare,
And the hours go swiftly, singing in their flight,
  If we let no glory down
  Any darkened life to crown
If our grace and joyance have no ministry for pain,
We have lived our life in vain".

"To the giver shall be given;
  If thou would'st walk in light
  Make other spirits bright;
Who, seeking for himself alone, ever entered heaven?
  In blessing we are blest;
  In labour find our rest.
If we bend not to the world's work, heart, and hand and brain,
We have lived our life in vain."

"Selfishness is utter loss;
  Life's most perfect joy and good,
  Ah! how few have understood!
Only One hath proved it fully, and He died upon the cross,
  Taking on Himself the curse
  So to bless a Universe.
If we follow not his footsteps, through the pathway straight and plain,
We have lived our life in vain".

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY.

AUGUST 24.

SAINT Bartholomew was of Cana in Galilee. His name means son of Tolmi. He is also called Nathaniel. Saint Philip first brought him to our Saviour (See St. John, chap. i, verses 43 to 51 inclusive.) On seeing him approach Jesus exclaimed: "Behold an Israelite indeed in whom there is no guile"! This Apostle is mentioned, by his name of NATHANIEL, as having been in company with six others fishing on the sea of Tiberias when Christ appeared (the third time after His resurrection), and when He, standing upon the shore, performed the miracle of the great draught of fishes, which caused Him to be recognised by Saint John who said: "It is the Lord". Saint Bartholomew preached the Gospel throughout the East. He was flayed alive and then crucified with his head downwards, in Albanople, a city of Armenia where he endeavoured to reclaim the people from idolatry".

TEXTS.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. St. Matt. v, 8.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Hebrews xii, 14.

The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good. Proverbs xv, 3.

And in their mouth was found no guile, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Revelation xiv, 5.

PRAYER.

O God who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding; pour into our hearts such love towards thee, that we loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm xvii, Verses 1, 2.—

Hear the right O Lord, consider my complaint, and hearken unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips. Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; and let thine eyes look upon the thing that is equal.

—Selection of Psalms lxxxvi, Verses 3, 4, 5.—

Happy are they and only they
Who from thy judgments never stray,
  Who know what 's right nor only so,
  But always practice what they know.

Extend to me that favor Lord,
Thou to thy chosen dost afford;
  When thou return'st to set them free
  Let thy salvation visit me.

Oh may I worthy prove to see
Thy saints in full prosperity!
  That I the joyful choir may join,
  And account thy people's triumph mine.

—Hymn 46, Verse 2.—

Tell how he cometh; from nation to nation,
How free to the faithful he offers salvation,
The heart-cheering news let the earth echo round;
How his people with joy everlasting are crowned.

COLLECT.

Oh Almighty and everlasting God, who didst give to thy Apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach thy Word; grant we beseech thee unto thy Church, to love that word which he believed, and both to preach and receive the same; through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

THE TWO PROSPECTS.

Look down for traffic, noise and strife
Look up for peace, for truth, for life;
Look down for grovelling, earth-born schemes,
Look up for holy, heavenly themes;
Look down for passions fierce and wild,
Look up for resignation mild;
Look down into the cold, dark grave,
Look up to Christ who died to save!

M. E. Townsend.

SAINT MATTHEW'S DAY.

SEPTEMBER 21.

SAINT Matthew, also called Levi, was a publican or collector of taxes under the Roman Government. He was sitting in the house beside Lake Gennessaret, exercising his profitable vocation when Jesus came and called him away to be his disciple. "And he left all, rose up and followed Him", says Saint Luke, adding "And Levi (Matthew) made him a great feast in his own house". (See St. Luke chap. v, 27, 28, 29.) Historians tell us that Saint Matthew remained fifteen years in Jerusalem, after the death of Christ, preaching to the Jews, and endeavoring to convert them: and preached the Gospel successfully in Judea, Parthia, and Ethiopia. He wrote the Gospel which bears his name. It is said, that he suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia. A. D. 60."

TEXTS.

And as Jesus passed forth from thence he saw a man named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom; and he saith unto him, follow me. And he arose and followed him. St. Matth iv, 9.

How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver. Proverbs xvi, 16.

The rich and poor meet together: The Lord is the maker of them all. Proverbs xxii, 2.

Sell that ye have and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is there will your heart be also. St. Luke xii, 33, 34.

PRAYER.

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which, whosover liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

—From Psalter. Psalm xv, Verses 1, 2, 6, 7.—

Lord, who shall dwell in thy tabernacle? or who shall rest upon thy holy hill? Even he that leadeth an uncorrupt life and doeth the thing which is right,

and speaketh the truth from his heart: He that hath not given his money upon usury, nor taken reward against the innocent; Whoso doeth these things shall never fall.

— Selection of Psalms xcvii, Part 14, Verses 4, 5. —

Do thou to thy most just commands
Incline my willing heart;
Let no desire of worldly wealth
From thee my thoughts divert.

From those vain objects turn mine eyes,
Which this false world displays;
But give me lively power and strength
To keep thy righteous ways.

— Hymn 204, Verses 1, 2, 4. —

Oh happy is the man who hears
Religious warning voice,
And who celestial wisdom makes
His early, only choice.

For she has treasures greater far
Than East or West unfold;
More precious are her bright rewards
Than gems or stores of gold.

And as her holy labors rise,
So her rewards increase;
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths are peace.

COLLECT.

O Almighty God, who, by thy blessed Son didst call Matthew from the receipt of custom to be an Apostle and Evangelist; grant us grace to forsake all covetous desires and inordinate love of riches, and to follow the same, thy Son Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. AMEN.

CHRIST'S LONELINESS.

Birds have their quiet nest,
Foxes their holes, and man his peaceful bed;
All creatures have their rest,
But Jesus had not where to lay His head.

Winds have their hour of calm,
And waves to slumber on the voiceless deep;
Eve hath its breath of balm
To hush all senses and all sounds to sleep.

The wild deer hath its lair,
The homeward flocks the shelter of their shed;
All have their rest from care,
But Jesus had not where to lay His head.

And yet he came to give
The weary and the heavy-laden rest,
To bid the sinner live,
And soothe our griefs to slumber on His breast.

What then, am I, my God,
Permitted thus the paths of peace to tread,
Peace purchased by the blood
Of Him who had not where to lay His head?

I who once made Him grieve,
I who once bid His gentle Spirit mourn;
Whose hand essayed to weave
For His meek brow the cruel crown of thorn.

O why should I have peace?
Why? but for that unchanged, undying love
Which would not, could not, cease,
Until it made me heir of joy above.

Yes! but for pardoning grace,
I feel I never should in glory see
The brightness of that face,
That once was pale and agonized for me.

Let the birds seek their nest,
Foxes their holes, and man his peaceful bed;
Come, Saviour, in my breast
Deign to repose Thine oft-rejected head!

Come! give me rest, and take
The only rest on earth Thou lovest within
A heart, that for Thy sake
Lies bleeding, broken, penitent for sin.

J. S. Monsell.

SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' DAY.

SEPTEMBER 29.

TO Thee all Angels cry aloud; the Heavens and all the powers therein.

To Thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and Earth are full of the Majesty of thy Glory.

(From the TE DEUM.)

Angels or heavenly "ministering spirits" have by God's will manifested themselves to human beings on numerous occasions since the creation of the world. It is interesting to consider the various kinds of manifestation. Sometimes we read that the Angels "called" the human being by name. Again "they met him", or appeared in a "flame of fire", or "with a sword drawn in the hand", or "sitting under an oak tree". Zechariah in speaking of his visions, says no fewer than ten times,

"The Angel that talked with me." It will be found on searching the Holy Scriptures that the Angels Michael and Gabriel are the two most prominently mentioned. The following texts are recommended for the reader's consideration.

TEXTS.

Cherubims at the gate of the Garden of Eden.
Genesis iii, 24.

The Angel of God "called" to Hagar.
Genesis xxi, 17.

The Angel of the Lord called unto Abraham.
Genesis xxii, 10, 11.

Jacob's vision of Angels on the ladder.
Genesis xxviii.

And Jacob went on his way and the Angels of God met him. Genesis xxx, 1.

The Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a burning bush in a flame of fire. Exodus iii.

The Angel of the Lord was standing in the way of Balaam and his ass; and his sword was drawn in his hand. Exodus xxii, 22.

An Angel of the Lord sat under an oak tree, and thus appeared unto Gideon and said . . .
Judges vi, 11.

An Angel appeared unto Manoah's wife and prophesied the birth of her son Samson. Judges xiii.

And the Angel of the Lord said unto Elijah . . .
2 Kings i, 15.

The Angel of the Lord smote, in the camp of the Assyrians, the host of Sennacherib.

2 Kings xix, 35.

Isaiah's vision of the Lord in His glory surrounded by Seraphims; "And one cried unto another and said, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts". Isaiah vi.

Read from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel the 10. chap., relating his visions of Cherubims.

See Daniel chap. x, beginning at verse 10; also Daniel chap. xii.—In both of these Chapters mention is made of the archangel Michael.

In the Gospel of St. Matthew we read that the Angel of the Lord appeared in dreams to Joseph the husband of Mary on four different occasions.

The devil left Jesus, and Angels came and ministered unto Him. St. Matth. iv, 11.

Yes, as his nature was human as well as divine, as he was a man, Angels ministered unto him. And in his last hours of mortal "agony" there appeared an Angel soothing and "strengthening him", as were ad in St. Luke xxii, 43.

But "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy Angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory."

St. Matth. xxv, 31.

Angels announced to the Shepherds that the Saviour was born into the world. St. Luke ii.

And Angels proclaimed to the women that the Saviour had risen from the dead. St. Luke xxiv.

It was the Angel Gabriel who was "sent from God" to Zacharias to speak unto him of the glad

tidings regarding the son, John the Baptist, who should be born unto him. And it was the same Angel Gabriel who announced afterwards to the Virgin Mary the wonderful news that she was to be the mother of the Saviour of mankind.

St. Luke i.

In St. John's Gospel, chap. v, it is related that at a certain season an Angel went down unto the pool of Bethesda and "troubled the water" thereby rendering it efficacious for the cure of those suffering from disease and infirmity.

At the time of our Saviour's Ascension into Heaven, the wondering Apostles as they were "steadfastly" looking up, saw two Angels. Acts i, 9, 10, 11.

The Angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, setting free the Apostles. Acts v, 17, 18, 19, 20.

The Angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, and commanded him to arise . . . Acts viii, 26.

In Acts chap. x we find that the Angel of God came to the centurion Cornelius, saying unto him that his prayers and his alms were acceptable unto God.

In Acts xii, Peter's delivery from prison by means of an Angel is recorded.

When the Apostle Paul was in the ship on his way as a prisoner to Rome, while the tempest raged and all hearts were faint with fear, there stood by him at night an Angel of God saying, Fear not Paul. Acts xxvii.

Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of Angels, in-

truding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.

Colossians ii, 18.

By the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone unto Heaven, and is on the right hand of God; Angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. 1 Peter iii, 21, 22.

For the Lord himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 1 Thess. iv, 16.

And he saith unto him: Verily, verily, I say unto you, hereafter ye shall see Heaven open, and the Angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. St. John i, 51.

And behold, I heard the voice of many Angels, round about the throne, and the beasts and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honour and glory and blessing.

Relevation v, 11, 12.

PRAYER.

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an Angel, so by his Cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm ciii, Verses 19, 20, 21, 22.—

The Lord hath prepared his seat in Heaven, and his kingdom ruleth over all. O praise the Lord, ye Angels of his, ye that excel in strength; ye that fulfil his commandment and hearken unto the voice of his word. O praise the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye servants of his that do his pleasure. O speak good of the Lord, all ye works of his, in all places of his dominion; praise thou the Lord, O my soul.

—Selection of Psalms lxxxi, Verse 11.—

The Lord, the universal King,
In heaven has fixed his lofty throne;
To him, ye Angels, praises sing,
In whose great strength his power is shown.

—Hymn 44, Verses 1, 2, 5, 6.—

While Angels thus O Lord rejoice,
Shall men no anthem raise?
O may we lose these useless tongues,
When we forget to praise.

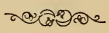
Then let us swell responsive notes,
And join the heavenly throng;
For Angels no such love have known
As we, to wake their song.

Glory to God, in highest strains,
By highest worlds is paid;
Be glory then by us proclaimed,
And by our lives displayed.

Till we attain those blissful realms,
  Where now our Saviour reigns;
To rival these celestial choirs
  In their immortal strains.

COLLECT.

O everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order; mercifully grant, that as thy holy Angels always do thee service in Heaven, so by thy appointment, they may succor and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.



But over all our tears God's rainbow bends,
To all our cries a pitying ear he lends;
Yea to the feeble sound of man's lament
How often have his messengers been sent!
No barren glory circles round His throne,
By mercy's errands were his Angels known;
Where hearts were heavy, and where eyes were dim,
There did the brightness radiate from Him;
God's pity, clothed in an apparent form,
Starred with a polar light the human storm,
Floated o'er tossing seas man's sinking bark,
And for all dangers built one sheltering ark.

When a slave's child lay dying, parched with thirst,
Till o'er the arid waste a fountain burst,
When Abraham's mournful hand upheld the knife
To smite the silver cord of Isaac's life,
When faithful Peter in his prison slept,
When lions to the feet of Daniel crept,
When the tried three walked through the furnace glare,
Believing God was with them, even there,
When to Bethesda's sunrise-smitten wave
Poor trembling cripples crawled their limbs to lave:
In all the various forms of human trial
Brimming that cup filled from a bitter vial,
Which even the suffering Christ with fainting cry
Under God's will had shudderingly passed by:
To hunger, pain and thirst, and human dread;
Imprisonment; sharp sorrow for the dead;
Deformed contraction; burdensome disease;
Humbling and fleshly ill!—to all of these
The shining messengers of comfort came,
God's Angels,—healing in God's holy name.

HON. MRS. NORTON.

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST'S DAY.

OCTOBER 18.

SAINT Luke was born at Antioch and became a Physician. He wrote the gospel bearing his name, and the Acts of the Apostles. He preached in Egypt and Greece. Saint Jerome says, "he was hanged on an olive tree, by a party of Greek infidels, at the age of 84."—Saint Luke's Gospel begins with a statement of events which occurred just before the birth of Jesus; and then goes on to relate the story of His life, death, resurrection and ascension,

The writer commences an account of the doings or "Acts" of the Apostles from the time (A. D. 33) when they, watching Christ's Ascension, as the cloud received him out of their sight heard the two Angels say, "Why stand ye gazing up into Heaven"? He then tells us that the eleven Apostles returned to Jerusalem from Mount Olivet, where they all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.

Next he relates that in those days "they appointed two" and prayed to God to show which he had chosen, that the elected one might "take part of this ministry and Apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell". "And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven Apostles."

Then came the wonderful day of Pentecost. And now Saint Luke proceeds to recount many acts of these twelve men and others, who as disciples joined the little band from year to year; going about from place to place, preaching, baptizing, healing the sick, praying, fasting; and suffering persecution, imprisonment and martyrdom! After this relation of their deeds during a period of over thirty years, he concludes his narrative (A. D. 65) with these words: "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house" (in Rome) "and received all that came to him; preaching the Kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him." It is evident that Saint Luke was very much in the company of Saint Paul. The latter in his Epistle to the Colossians, written A. D. 64, says: "Luke the beloved Physician, and Demas greet you." His second Epistle to Timothy, written A. D. 66, two years later, was sent from Rome, when he was brought before Nero the second time; and it bears strong testimony to Saint Luke's devotion and constancy to him. We read in chap. iv.: "Demas hath forsaken me having loved this present world. Only Luke is with me."

TEXTS.

Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us; even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, that thou mightest know the certainty of those things wherein thou hast been instructed.

St. Luke i, 1, 2, 3, 4.

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the Apostles whom had he chosen. Acts i, 1, 2.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an Evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 2 Timothy iv, 5.

PRAYER.

Almighty and Everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified; receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before thee, for all estates of men in thy Holy Church, that every member of the same in his vocation and ministry, may truly and gladly serve thee through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

—From Psalter. Psalm lvi, Verses 14, 15, 16, 17.—

My mouth shall daily speak of thy righteousness and salvation; for I know no end thereof. I will go forth in the strength of the Lord God, and will make mention of thy righteousness only. Thou O God, hast taught me from my youth up until, now; therefore will I tell of thy wondrous works. Forsake me not O God, in mine old age, when I am grey-headed until I have showed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to all them that are yet for to come.

—Selection of Psalms lx, Verses 2, 3, 5.—

My tongue shall oracles proclaim,
  Which ancient times have known;
The truths which our forefathers care
  To us have handed down.

We will not hide them from our sons
  Our offspring shall be taught
The praises of the Lord whose strength
  Has works of wonders wrought;

That generations yet to come,
  Should to their unborn heirs
Religiously transmit the same
  And they again to theirs.

—Hymn 9, Verses 1, 2.—

The Saviour when to Heaven he rose
In splendid triumph o'er his foes,
Scattered his gifts on men below,
And wide his royal bounties flow.

Hence sprang the Apostles' honored name,
Sacred beyond heroic fame;
Hence dictates the prophetic sage
And hence the Evangelic page.

COLLECT.

Almighty God who called'st Luke the Physician, whose praise is in the Gospel, to be an Evangelist and Physician of the soul; may it please thee, that by the wholesome medicines of the doctrine delivered by him, all the diseases of our souls may be healed, through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

COMFORT FOR THE SICK.

Poor body, thou art weak!
Words cannot speak
Thine anguish and distress
The bitter restlessness
The sinking grief
With no relief.

Poor body! Thou art frail:
Of no avail
Thy little strength to try,
For thou must lie
Languid and full of pain
Crying for help, in vain.

Poor body, patient lie;
For by and bye
When Jesus deems it best
His love will give thee rest:
Then trust alway
And watch and pray.

Poor body, never fear!
The Good Physician's near
To heal, and give thee sweet repose, when thou art sad and dreary,
For gentle Jesus said,
Ere on the Cross he bled:
"Come unto me, ye heavy-laden, come to me ye weary".

M. E. Townsend.

SAINT SIMON AND SAINT JUDE'S DAY.

OCTOBER 28.

SAINT Simon was called Simon the Canaanite to distinguish him from the Apostle Simon Peter, and on account of his warm and energetic temperament he was known as Simon Zelotes. He preached the Gospel in Greece and Africa. It is said that he preached also in Great Britain, and was crucified there.

Saint Jude, also one of the twelve Apostles, was the son of Cleophas, and brother of James the Less. He was known by the names of Lebbeus and Thaddeus, singnifying prudence and zeal; which names likewise served to distinguish him from Judas the betrayer. He preached the Gospel in Judea, Galilee, Samaria, and Armenia. It is said that he suffered martyrdom in Persia. Saint Jude wrote one Epistle, addressed to Christians generally.

There is a tradition that Saint Simon and Saint Jude were often associated in their Christian labors.

TEXTS.

(See St. Luke xvi, 13, 14, 15, 16. — Also Acts i, 13.)

Judas saith unto him (not Iscariot), Lord how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? St. John xv, 22.

Jude the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you and peace and love be multiplied.
Epistle of St. Jude, Verses 1, 2.

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. AMEN. Ephes. vi, 23, 24.

PRAYER.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; we beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us in all adversities, who livest and reignest one God world without end. AMEN.

— From Psalter. Psalm xxxiv, Verse 3. —

O praise the Lord with me, and let us magnify his name together.

—Selection of Psalms lxv, Part 2, Verses 5, 6.—

To all thy servants, Lord, let this
Thy wondrous work be known;
And to our offspring yet unborn
Thy glorious power be shown.

Let thy bright rays upon us shine,
Give thou our work success;
The glorious work we have in hand.
Do thou vouchsafe to bless.

—Hymn 134, Verses 6, 7.—

In prayer on earth the saints are one;
They're one in word and mind,
When with the Father and the Son
Sweet fellowship they find.

O Thou, by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod;
Lord, teach us how to pray.

COLLECT.

O Almighty God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and the Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the head corner-stone; grant us so to be joined together in unity

of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

THE DARK ANGEL.

Count each affliction, whether light or grave,
  God's messenger sent down to thee. Do thou
  With courtesy receive him: rise and bow;
And ere his shadow pass thy threshold crave
Permission first his heavenly feet to lave;
  Then lay before him all thou hast; allow
  No cloud of passion to usurp thy brow
Or mar thy hospitality; no wave
  Of mortal tumult to obliterate
Thy soul's marmoreal calmness. Grief should be
  Like joy, majestic, equable, sedate,
Confirming, cleansing, raising, making free:
  Strong to consume small troubles; to commend
Great thoughts, pure thoughts, thoughts lasting to the end.

AUBREY DE VERE.

ALL SAINTS' DAY.

NOVEMBER 1.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY GHOST; THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

(From the Apostles Creed.)

—From the "Canticle".—

O ye spirits and souls of the righteous, bless ye the Lord; praise him and magnify him for ever.

—From the TE DEUM.—

The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee. The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise Thee. The noble army of Martyrs praise Thee. The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee, the Father, of an infinite Majesty; Thine adorable, true and only Son; also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

TEXTS.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them. Revelation xiv, 13.

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. Phil. iii, 20, 21.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which ye also are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians i, 1, 4, 15, 16.

So we, being many are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Romans xii, 5.

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 1 John iii, 1, 2.

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity; we give thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those thy servants, who having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labors. And we beseech thee, that we with all those who are departed in the true faith of thy Holy Name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in thy eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

—From Psalter. Psalm xvi, Verses 3, 9, 10.—

All my delight is upon the saints that are in the earth, and upon such as excel in virtue. I have set God always before me; for he is on my right hand, therefore I shall not fall. Wherefore my heart was glad, and my glory rejoiced; my flesh also shall rest in hope.

—Selection of Psalms xxx, Verse 3, 4.—

Since of thy goodness all partake,
With what assurance should the just,
Thy sheltering wings their refuge make,
And saints to thy protection trust!

Such guests shall to thy courts be led,
To banquet on thy love's repast;
And drink, as from a fountain's head,
Of joys that shall for ever last.

COLLECT.

O Almighty God who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord; grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

— Hymn 191. —

Vital spark of heavenly flame,
Quit, oh quit this mortal frame;
  Trembling, hoping, ling'ring, flying,
  O, the pain, the bliss of dying!
Cease fond nature, cease thy strife,
And let me languish into life.

Hark, they whisper, Angels say,
Sister spirit, "come away"!
  What is this absorbs me quite;
  Steals my senses, shuts my sight,
Drowns my spirit, draws my breath?
Tell me, my soul, can this be death?

The world recedes, it disappears;
Heaven opens on my eyes; my ears
  With sounds seraphic ring;
  Lend, lend, your wings; I mount, I fly;
O grave, where is thy victory!
O death, where is thy sting!

A CLOSING PRAYER.

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered; make us, we beseech thee deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let thy Holy Spirit lead us through this vale of misery, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives: That when we shall have served thee, in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of the catholic Church, in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious and holy hope; in favor with Thee our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

"One family in Heaven and Earth,
Bound by the ties of second birth;
None dead, tho' some their work have done,
Their battle fought, their freedom won;
All in the Lord alive and blest,
Tho' some may toil and some may rest."

2 Corinthians xiii, 11, 13, 14.

FINALLY BRETHREN, FAREWELL. BE PERFECT, BE OF GOOD COMFORT, BE OF ONE MIND, LIVE IN PEACE; AND THE GOD OF LOVE AND PEACE SHALL BE WITH YOU.

ALL THE SAINTS SALUTE YOU.

THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY GHOST, BE WITH YOU ALL. AMEN.

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